

Farm for the Future Farming with the Environment

Dartmoor Hill Farm Project is working with The Royal Countryside Fund to deliver this programme of free support 2022-2025.

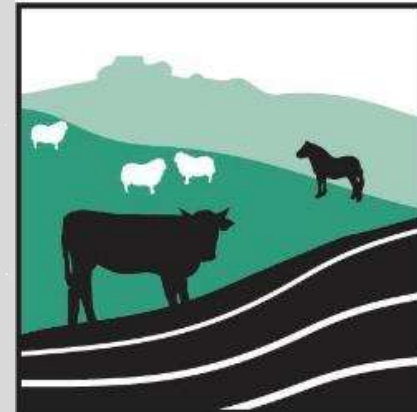
Farm for the Future is funded by Defra's Future Farming Resilience Fund.



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Agenda

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Scheme and
Grant Update

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Focus on CS
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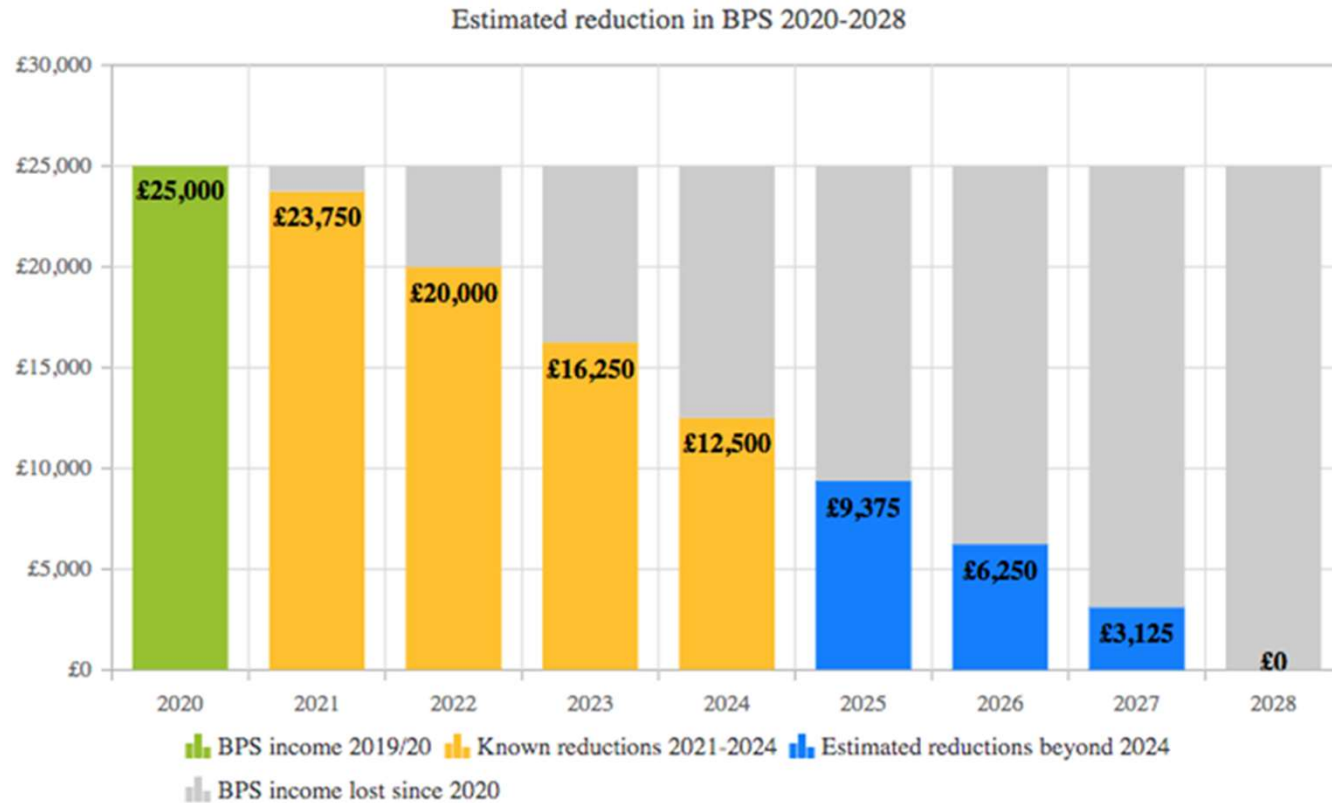
Farm Walk with
Babet?



1 Scheme and Grant Update



From BPS to delinked payments



Defra's BPS reductions calculator: <https://calculate-direct-payment-reductions.defra.gov.uk/>



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The Sustainable Farming Incentive

In this post, we'll provide updates on the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and the resources you need to prepare. Alongside the date from which we'll start accepting applications, we also include details of an accelerated payment to help with cashflow.


Updated 21 September

[Read more](#)



Slurry Infrastructure grant: guidance now available for round 2

[Thomas Proudfoot](#) · 12 October 2023 · [Payments for equipment, technology and infrastructure](#)



In April I blogged about the outcome of the first round of Slurry Infrastructure grants. In that post, I said we were planning to launch two further, larger rounds in Autumn 2023 and 2024.

[Read more](#)

About us

This blog is managed by Defra's Farming and Countryside Programme.

On this blog, we explain the reforms to agricultural policy in England.

We share what we're working on, what we're learning and how you can get involved.

[Find out more](#)

Funding for farmers, growers and land managers in England

GOV.UK is the place to find official guidance and information.

[Funding for farmers, growers and land managers](#) sets out every payment on offer with links to learn more.

It features payments for:



- Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) 2023
- Research and Innovation
- Calf Housing for Health and Welfare grant
- Water Management Grant Round 2
- Adding Value Grant
- Slurry Investment Grant Round 2



Farming Investment Fund



Slurry Investment Grant (SIG)

£25-£250k

Now includes impermeable covers to existing stores, in-situ cast concrete stores and slurry separation.

Covering slurry stores:

'One of the questions we get asked the most is whether all slurry stores will need to be covered by 2027. This was a suggestion made in the [Clean Air Strategy](#), published in 2019.

Covering slurry stores is a well-established practice to minimise ammonia emissions. It's set out in the [Code of Good Agricultural Practice \(COGAP\)](#).

All stores will not need to be covered unless or until new rules are brought in. Farmers will be given plenty of notice and support to implement any new changes. We do not expect that any new rules will require existing stores to be covered with impermeable covers by 2027.'



Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

National Parks and AONB's

Carbon, Nature, People, Place

£2,000 - £250,000 (Dartmoor £600,000)

Now until March 2025

40 – 100% funding



Woodland

- Woodland Management Plans & Woodland Tree Health
- England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)
- Plymouth & South Devon Community Forest
- Woodland Creation Planning



2 Focus on CS and SFI (ELM)



Environmental Land Management (ELM)

1. Landscape Recovery
2. Countryside Stewardship (CS)
3. Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)





Landscape Recovery

- Designed to fund a smaller number of longer-term, larger-scale, bespoke projects.
- Land area 500 - 5000 connected hectares.
- Agreements awarded through competitive application rounds.
- 1st round in 2022 awarded funding to 22 projects covering over 40,000 ha inc East Dart
- Majority of projects involve groups of land managers and farmers, working together to deliver a range of environmental benefits across farmland and rural landscapes.
- Recent 2nd round just closed, applying for £15m shared between <25 projects with a focus on net zero carbon emissions, protected sites & wildlife-rich habitat.
- Another application round expected in 2024.



Countryside Stewardship (CS)

- **CS Capital Grants** - 3-year agreements, open application window, for specific environmental benefits: boundaries, trees and orchards; water quality; air quality; natural flood management. CSF extended geographical coverage.
- **CS Mid Tier and Wildlife Offers** - 5-year management grants with or without capital grants to improve diversity of wildlife; water quality; air quality; natural flood management.
- **CS Higher Tier**- more advanced scheme for specific habitat management, targeted, different application process.
- **CS Plus**- New enhanced version of CS instead of 'Local Nature Recovery' to include habitat creation



Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

- Existing agreements to close
- No associated capital works
- 3-year agreements - can be amended
- 'Pick n Mix' Actions
- Management payment - £20 per hectare for up to the first 50 hectares, £1,000 maximum payment per farm business
- Paid quarterly
- More SFI actions to be introduced in 2024
- Animal Health & Welfare Review





3 Questions?



Common Q's

- Will they keep payment rates between CS and SFI the same?
- Will they change CS rules to match those in SFI?
- I'm in HLS can I apply for SFI?
- I'm in Mid Tier can I apply for SFI
- I'm in Mid Tier/SFI can I apply for a standalone CS Capital Grant
- I have a standalone CS Capital Grant already; can I apply for another one?
- SFI seems easier than MT, can I switch?
- Do I need to keep records for SFI?
- Can I be inspected for SFI?
- Can commons apply?



4 Farm Walk



Grassland

- Don't forget **Environmental Impact Assessment (ESA)** rules!! Not been physically or chemically cultivated in last 15 years.
- Improved or Unimproved grassland:

Improved permanent grassland: Permanent grassland that's been agriculturally 'improved' by doing one or more of the following activities:

- regularly re-seeding, or reseeded within the last 15 years
- regularly applying fertiliser (typically at least 100kg per hectare of nitrogen as an artificial compound fertiliser or animal manures and slurries)
- blanket herbicide application to treat weeds
- maintaining field drains
- taking conserved forage as silage, haylage or hay, more than once a year

Improved grassland will usually have a high cover of ryegrasses and white clover, with a low cover of wildflowers and sedges.

Low input (semi-improved or unimproved) permanent grassland: Permanent grassland that's been managed by doing one or more of the following activities:

- no reseeded for at least 15 years
- applying low or no amounts of artificial compound fertiliser or animal manures and slurries
- applying localised or no herbicide to treat weeds
- leaving field drains unmaintained or maintaining them infrequently (hay meadows may be more actively drained)
- taking conserved forage as hay or haylage no more than once a year



Code	SFI action	Rotational or static action	Total or part SFI available area in each land parcel	Annual payment	Arable land		Permanent crops		Permanent grassland		Moorland	Hedgerows
					Arable crops	Temporary grassland	Horticultural	Non-horticultural	Improved	Low input		
IPM4	No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops	Rotational or static	Total only	£45 per ha	✓		✓	✓				
Actions for nutrient management												
NUM1	Assess nutrient management and produce a review report	Not applicable	Not applicable – agreement level SFI action	£589 per year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
NUM2	Legumes on improved grassland	Rotational or static	Total or part	£102 per ha		✓			✓			
NUM3	Legume fallow	Rotational or static	Total or part	£593 per ha	✓	✓	✓					
Actions for farmland wildlife on arable and horticultural land												
AHL1	Pollen and nectar flower mix	Rotational or static	Total or part	£614 per ha	✓	✓	✓					
AHL2	Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land	Rotational or static	Total or part	£732 per ha	✓	✓	✓					
AHL3	Grassy field corners and blocks	Static	Total or part	£590 per ha	✓	✓	✓					



Code	SFI action	Rotational or static action	Total or part SFI available area in each land parcel	Annual payment	Arable land		Permanent crops		Permanent grassland		Moorland	Hedgerows
					Arable crops	Temporary grassland	Horticultural	Non-horticultural	Improved	Low input		
Actions for farmland wildlife on improved grassland												
IGL1	Take grassland field corners or blocks out of management	Static	Total or part	£333 per ha		✓			✓			
IGL2	Winter bird food on improved grassland	Rotational or static	Total or part	£474 per ha		✓			✓			
Actions for buffer strips												
AHL4	4m to 12m grass buffer strip on arable and horticultural land	Static	Total or part	£451 per ha	✓		✓					
IGL3	4m to 12m grass buffer strip on improved grassland	Static	Total or part	£235 per ha		✓			✓			
Actions for low input grassland												
LIG1	Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (outside SDAs)	Static	Only total SFI available area, unless done with IGL1	£151 per ha		✓ outside SDAs			✓	✓		
LIG2	Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (SDAs)	Static	Only total SFI available area, unless done with IGL1	£151 per ha		✓ SDAs below moorland line			✓ SDAs below moorland line	✓ SDAs below moorland line		



- NUM2 Legumes on improved grassland - £102/ha – beware peaty soils
- SAM3 Herbal Leys (improved grassland - £382/ha
- IGL1 Field corners/blocks (improved grassland) - £333/ha
- IGL2 Winter Bird Food (improved grassland) - £474/ha
- IGL3 4m-12m buffer strips (improved grassland) - £235/ha
- LIG1/2 Low input grassland (in/outside SDA's) (un/improved grassland) - £151/ha

- Vs

- GS2/5 Low input grassland - £151/ha
- GS6 Species rich grassland - £182/ha + £37/39
- GS1 Field corners/blocks - £333/ha
- GS4 Herbal leys - £382/ha



Hedgerows

- HRW1 Assess and record hedgerow condition £3 per 100m/each side
- HRW2 Manage hedgerows £10/100m/each side
- HRW3 Maintain or establish hedgerow trees £10/100m/both sides

- Vs

- BE3 Hedgerow management £10/100m/each side



Code	SFI action	Rotational or static action	Total or part SFI available area in each land parcel	Annual payment	Arable land		Permanent crops		Permanent grassland		Moorland	Hedgerows
					Arable crops	Temporary grassland	Horticultural	Non-horticultural	Improved	Low input		
Actions for moorland												
MOR1	Assess moorland and produce a written record	Static	Total only	£10.30 per ha and additional payment of £265 per agreement							✓	
Actions for hedgerows												
HRW1	Assess and record hedgerow condition	Static	Not applicable	£3 per 100m – one side	Not applicable – linear SFI action which can be done on the boundaries of these land types						✓	
HRW2	Manage hedgerows	Static	Not applicable	£10 per 100m – one side	Not applicable – linear SFI action which can be done on the boundaries of these land types						✓	
HRW3	Maintain or establish hedgerow trees	Static	Not applicable	£10 per 100m – both sides	Not applicable – linear SFI action which can be done on the boundaries of these land types						✓	
Actions for integrated pest management												
IPM1	Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan	Not applicable	Not applicable – agreement level SFI action	£989 per year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
IPM2	Flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips	Rotational or static	Total or part	£673 per ha	✓	✓	✓	✓				
IPM3	Companion crop on arable and horticultural land	Rotational or static	Total or part	£55 per ha	✓	✓	✓					



Soil Management

- SAM1 Assess soil inc organic matter and produce a plan



Table 2: SFI actions you can do on different land types and features

Code	SFI action	Rotational or static action	Total or part SFI available area in each land parcel	Annual payment	Arable land		Permanent crops		Permanent grassland		Moorland	Hedgerows
					Arable crops	Temporary grassland	Horticultural	Non-horticultural	Improved	Low input		
Actions for soils												
SAM1	Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a plan	Static	Total only	£5.80 per ha and additional payment of £95 per agreement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
SAM2	Multi-species winter cover crops	Rotational or static	Total or part	£129 per ha	✓	✓	✓					
SAM3	Herbal leys	Rotational or static	Total or part	£382 per ha	✓	✓			✓			



Arable and Temporary Pastures

- SAM2 Winter cover crops - £129/ha
- IMP2 Flower-rich margins/blocks - £673/ha
- NUM3 Legume fallow - £593/ha
- AHL1 Pollen and nectar mix - £614/ha



Management Plans

- IMP1 Pest management plan - £989/ha
- NUM1 Nutrient management plan - £589/ha



Moorland

- MOR1 Assess moorland and produce written record - £10.30/ha + £265 per agreement



Thank You



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