AI in Agriculture: Practical Tools for Farmers and Advisers

Farming Advice Service



A balanced introduction for farmers, land managers and advisers

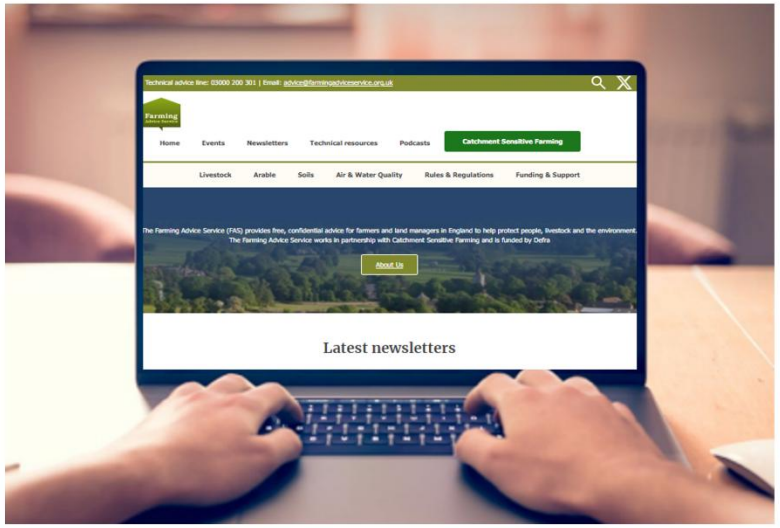
Dr. Felicity Crotty, Principal Consultant, Agriculture and Land, WSP

Javier Soto, Principal Data Scientist, WSP



FAS Webinar: 19th November 2026

AI in Agriculture: Practical Tools for Farmers and Advisers



Webinar agenda

AI in Agriculture: Navigating Opportunities and Risks

5 min

Welcome and introduction

Farming Advice Service

10 min

From Farm to Future: How AI is transforming agriculture

Paul Laniran, Innovation Lead at Innovate UK



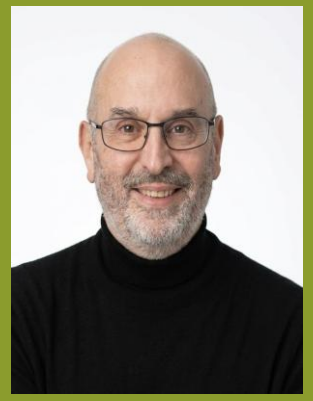
30 min

AI in practice for your farm business

Felicity Crotty and Javier Soto, WSP

What AI is and is not, the free tools, everyday examples for paperwork and admin, and using it safely





15 min

Questions and answers

Farming Advice Service

From Farm to Future:
How AI is transforming agriculture in England

Smarter decisions. Sustainable production. Resilient food systems.

AI in Agriculture: Why It Matters

- AI is transforming agriculture, enabling smarter, data-driven farming.
- Farmers can do more with less, optimising labour, water, inputs, and energy.
- Improves productivity and quality through better decision-making and precision management.
- Rapid adoption across the sector, from AI-enabled products and machinery to in-field farming applications.
- Supports profitability, resilience, and sustainability in food production.

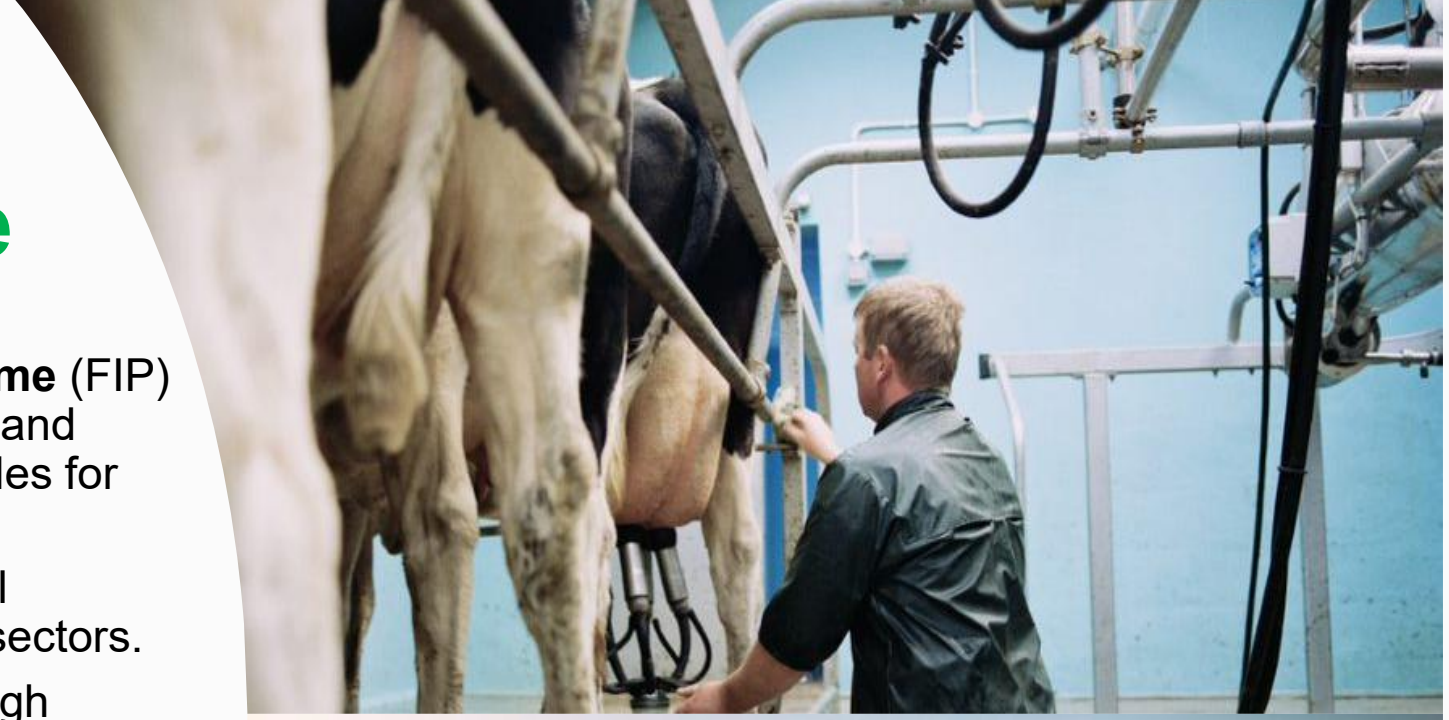


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UKRI Innovate UK

The Farming Innovation Programme

- Since 2021, the **Farming Innovation Programme** (FIP) has been Defra's flagship for supporting research and innovation in farming and is one of the main vehicles for our innovation and research ambition.
- FIP aims to enhance productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience in England's farming sectors.
- Funding is awarded on a competitive basis to high quality, innovative projects.
- To date it has supported 294 projects involving 611organisations, enabling nascent technology development and creating a long-term pipeline of future businesses.
- FIP has committed over £188m of Defra funding and attracted over £65m of private investment.





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The **Farming Innovation Programme** offers a range of opportunities for farmers, growers, businesses and researchers to collaborate on research and development:

Industry Led R&D Competitions

Feasibility projects where businesses can check if a research idea works in practice

Small/Large Partnership Projects, where businesses can further develop a new farming product or service towards commercialisation.

Themed competitions

Farming Futures R&D Fund, where businesses and researchers can work on longer-term innovation focussing on issues like: Climate-Smart Farming, Sustainable farm-based Proteins, Robotics and Automation, Environmental resilience or Nutrient Management

ADOPT Fund where farmers can trial on-farm new innovations, practices or technologies

Investor Partnerships (Defra Funded)

Where innovative projects can use grants to leverage with private investment. Aligned private investment must be at least 2x grant requested.

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https://farminginnovation.ukri.org/

Farming Innovation Programme till date

October 2021
£1m - Research Starter Projects (round 1)
£8m - Feasibility Projects (round 1)
£11m - Small Partnership Projects (round 1)

March 2022
£8m - Large Partnership Projects (round 1)
£12.5m - Climate-smart farming

May 2022
£1m - Research Starter Projects (round 2)

July 2022
£12.5m - Sustainable farm-based Proteins

Autumn 2022
£5.5m Feasibility Projects (round 2)
£11m Small Partnership Projects (round 2)

January 2023
£12.5m - Automation and Robotics
£1m Research Starter Projects (round 3)

February 2023
£8m – Large Partnerships Projects (round 2)

May 2023
£12.5m On Farm Environmental Resilience

July 2023
£5m Investor Partnerships Projects

August 2023
£9.8m - Small R&D Partnership Projects (round 3)

September 2023
£4.5m - Feasibility Studies (round 3)

December 2023
£850k – Research Starter (round 4)

January 2024
£7.8m – Large Partnership Projects (round 3)

May 2024
£15m – Nutrient Management

April 2025
£20.6m – ADOPT (round 1)

May 2025
£12.5m - Precision Breeding

£12.5m – Low Emissions farming

June 2025
£5m Investor Partnerships Projects
ADOPT (round 2)

August 2025
ADOPT (round 3)

September 2025
£7.8m Small R&D Partnerships (round 4)

October 2025
£4.8m Feasibility Studies (round 4)
ADOPT (round 4)

December 2025 to July 2026
ADOPT (rounds 5 to 8)

Over 300 projects to date in Funds 1 & 2, over 250 in ADOPT

Over £188m in grants awarded

Over £65m in leveraged private investment

Interim delivery evaluation published in 2025 shows that the programme is on the right track to deliver long term improvements to productivity and the environment.

***Programme 'additions'**

£6.3m assigned to follow on funding (invite only)

£2m assigned to funding 7 additional projects from previous Feasibility round (invite only)

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FIP Overview of Biologicals and Crop Protection

Number of FIP projects using AI/ML as either primary or secondary technology

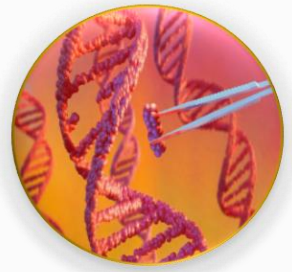
Category	Projects
Forestry / Bioeconomy	2
Other	2
Horticulture	12
Broadacre	22
Livestock	30
Grand Total	**68**

Farming Innovation Programme has invested over £22m in projects using AI/ML

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Current Funding Opportunities:
Healthy Soils and Water for a Sustainable Environment Competition



Competition Summary

Total budget

£28m Million

Total project costs

£1–5 Million

Duration

Aug 2027 – **July 2030**

have a **minimum of 50% of any grant requested** by farmers, growers or foresters, **allocated to farmers, growers or foresters based in England**

For **UK registered businesses** wishing to **collaborate** with other UK organisations

Note: Projects that address multiple scope areas and adopt a systems based approach are particularly encouraged, recognising the interconnected nature of soil health, water quality and wider environmental management. By supporting integrated, whole farm solutions, this competition seeks to maximise both environmental and economic benefits, delivering greater impact across the farming sector.

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The aim of this competition is to fund collaborative development projects that deliver ambitious, commercially deployable solutions to the challenges associated with soil, water and environmental management in farming and growing production systems.

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Innovate UK

Farming Innovation Programme - ADOPT

Enhancing productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience in England's farming sectors



ADOPT: Adoption of on-farm technologies

Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies Fund

- ✓ **Farm trials or demonstrators:** projects **must** trial an idea, solution or technology on-farm.
  - ✓ Proving if it works in real on-farm conditions
- ✓ **Sharing trial results:** to support wider farmer adoption
- ✓ **Farmer focused:** mandatory for farmers to both **Lead** and **Partner**
  - ✓ Farmers must collaborate
- ✓ **Significant support:** Project facilitators, mandatory role to support the farm trial and coordinate the project

Unlike other programmes, **we are not** looking for IP generation or commercialisation of technology as an output of the project.

- ✓ **Simplified systems**

COLLABORATION - COLLABORATION - COLLABORATION

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ADOPT: Adoption of on-farm technologies

Summary

2 Strands

1. Facilitator Support Grant
2. Full Grant

Total Project Costs

1. Support Grant £2,500
2. Project trials £50K-£200K

Duration

1. Up to 3 months
2. Between 6–24 months



Lead must be a farming, growing or forestry business of any size **based in England**

1. For support developing an ADOPT Full grant application
2. For on-farm trials and demonstrations of existing solutions

A support grant is not required before applying for the Full grant

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CowView

The Challenge

Dairy farmers often rely on manual observation, periodic veterinary inspections and wearable sensors to monitor cow health and welfare. These approaches can be labour-intensive, costly, inconsistent and may miss early signs of lameness, metabolic disorders or welfare issues. Delayed detection can reduce productivity, shorten animal lifespan and increase greenhouse gas emissions.



The Solution

CowView, developed by CattleEye, uses standard security cameras combined with advanced Artificial Intelligence video analytics to provide the world's first hardware-independent, autonomous livestock monitoring platform. The completely hands-free system continuously assesses cow welfare and performance without wearable devices. Building on independently verified mobility scoring capabilities, CowView enhances lesion detection, improve monitoring accuracy, and introduce Body Condition Scoring and Rumen Fill assessments to identify potential health issues earlier.

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ADOPT: PASCAL (Pre-Annual Shoot Count Assessment Logic)

The Challenge

UK vineyards currently lack a reliable, cost-effective way to predict shoot counts early, creating uncertainty in yield forecasting, labour planning and profitability—especially for small to medium growers.

Manual shoot counting is slow, weather-dependent and inconsistent, yet shoot count is a key early proxy for yield. Forecast errors drive avoidable cost and operational risk.



The Solution

PASCAL is testing low-cost, field-deployable sensor clusters (microclimate + multispectral canopy reflectance) to identify early-season signals that correlate with shoot counts, enabling an initial predictive model and farmer-friendly insights through AI forecasting.

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Development of a novel mode-of-action herbicide for blackgrass control

The Challenge

Blackgrass is increasingly resistant to conventional herbicides, leaving glyphosate as one of the last effective control options. However, reliance on glyphosate risks further resistance development, while regulatory and environmental pressures threaten its long-term use. Without alternative solutions, growers face major economic losses, reduced productivity and increased risks to national food security..



The Solution

Bindbridge, in collaboration with NIAB, will develop a proprietary AI-based discovery platform to identify agriculturally relevant molecular glues for crop protection applications. The project will use artificial intelligence to accelerate the discovery of molecules capable of Targeted Protein Degradation (TPD) in blackgrass, selectively removing key proteins required for weed survival. This novel mode of action offers a highly effective, durable and scalable approach to controlling herbicide-resistant weeds while reducing off-target impacts compared with traditional herbicides.

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Summary

AI is not replacing farmers; it is empowering them with better insights and decision-making tools. By using technologies such as sensors, data analytics, and predictive models, AI helps increase crop yields, improve resource efficiency, and support more sustainable farming practices. As these technologies continue to evolve, AI will play an increasingly important role in enhancing agricultural productivity and strengthening global food security.



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AI in practice for your farm business

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Independent, practical and balanced

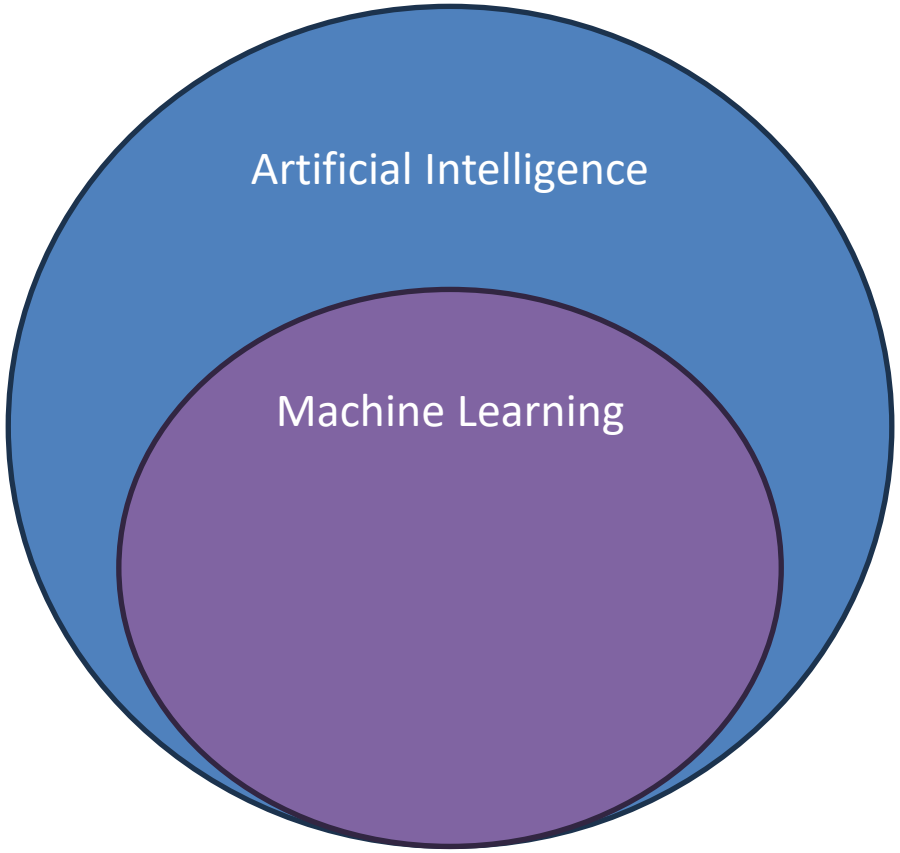
- Establish a clear baseline: what AI is, and what it is not
- Separate generative AI tools from embedded and bespoke AI/ML
- Show useful, low-barrier applications in farm and advisory work
- Be explicit about limitations, prohibited uses and human accountability
- Use practical examples from horticulture and farm business analytics

Why the distinction matters

The same term “AI” covers very different technologies and risk profiles.

A writing assistant is not the same as a crop-disease model, autonomous machine or forecasting system.

The evidence, controls and professional judgement required depend on the use case.



AI is not one thing

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Generative AI and LLM assistants

Drafting, summarising and questioning documents

Produces probabilistic text and requires verification

Examples used only to demonstrate the category

Embedded and bespoke AI/ML

Prediction, classification, computer vision and optimisation

Built for a defined task using specific data

Requires validation, monitoring and appropriate operational controls

Examples of AI in agriculture

- AI can be viewed as a modern extension of statistical analysis
- Like the internet, AI is a tool, It is not trying to replace you as a person
- AI is a pattern recognition methods. Look for the patterns that have occurred historically when training, make decisions in the future based on the previous patterns recognised.



Forecasting



Classification



Computer Vision



Natural Language Processing

Forecasting

- AI in agricultural forecasting is enabling accurate predictions of yield, weather and even market prices
- Crop yield prediction: based on historical yield data, growing conditions and crop development stages, AI can predict future yields with greater accuracy.
- Weather forecasting: AI can provide more precise local weather forecasts compared to traditional methods, analysing real time weather data and incorporating climate models.

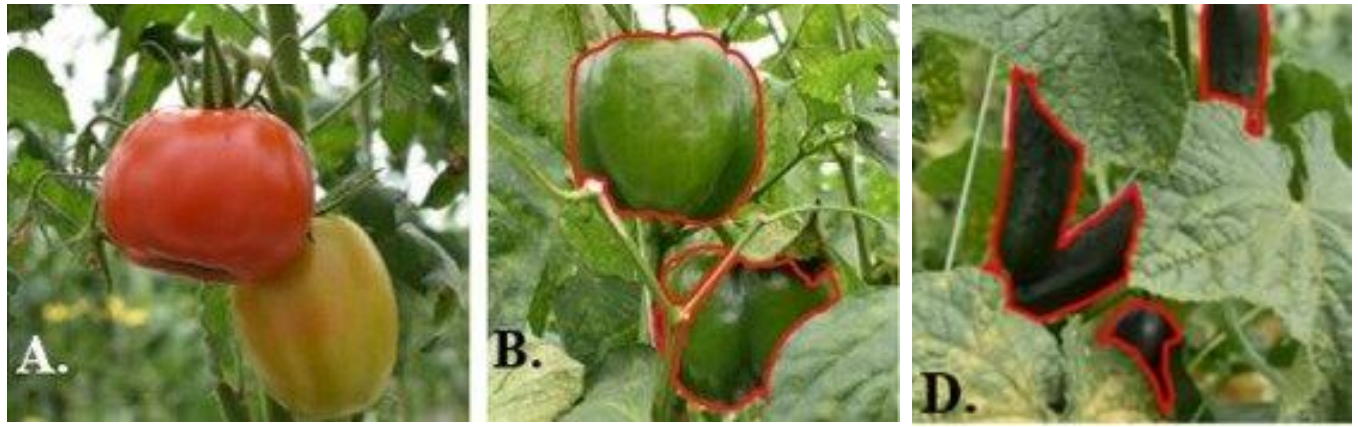


DISEASE FORECASTING

- Pneumonitor in the pen at calf height
- Actively tracks key environmental metrics – temperature, humidity, airflow and VOCs – streams them to a centralised dashboard
- Receive real time alerts
- Historic data allows the identification of trends in the pens.

Classification

- Train an AI model using labelled data
- Assigns discrete category or groups to data
- Can then apply same categorisation on unseen data.
- NEED a lot of data to work effectively



AUTOMATIC HARVESTING

Examples: Apple, citrus, cucumber, peppers

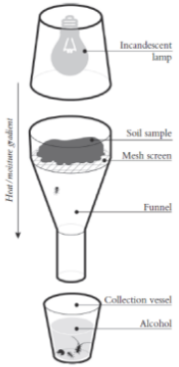
- Often these models are not transferrable between crops
- Red tomatoes and red peppers suitable for colour, shape, and texture detection
- Green pepper (red outline) for shape and texture detection.

Computer vision

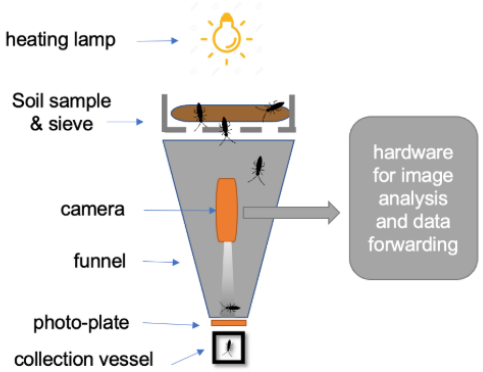
- AI-enabled soil biodiversity monitoring
- Collaboration between Syngenta, with the Institute for Soil Sciences, the Allerton Project and EDAPHONE.
- The aim is more consistent measurement of diversity, abundance, biomass and Biological Quality Index (QBS-ar).

Classic soil extractor funnel

Berlese, 1905 (source: Soil Fauna Assemblages, Cambridge Press 2019)



Edapholog 1.0





What we mean by AI: two different types

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Today's focus is the first type: tools anyone can use in plain English, often for free.

TODAY'S FOCUS

AI assistants you talk to

ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Microsoft Copilot

- You type or speak a question in everyday English
- They draft, summarise, compare and organise
- Good for paperwork, letters and communication
- Available now, many with a free version

Can sound confident and still be wrong. You check the answer.

WORTH KNOWING ABOUT

AI built into farm technology

Machinery, cameras, sensors and software

- Targeted spraying that treats only the weeds
- Collars and cameras that flag sick or lame animals
- Satellite and drone maps of crop health
- Each does one specific job inside a system

You buy or use it rather than talk to it. Ask for evidence it works on farms like yours.

Meet the main AI assistants

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All are “chat” tools: you ask in plain English and get an answer back.

ChatGPT
Made by OpenAI

GOOD AT

The best known. A good all-rounder for writing, questions, photos and documents.

FREE VERSION

Yes, with daily limits

WHERE TO FIND IT

chatgpt.com or the app

Gemini
Made by Google

GOOD AT

Handy if you use Gmail, Google Drive or an Android phone.

FREE VERSION

Yes, with daily limits

WHERE TO FIND IT

gemini.google.com or the app

Claude
Made by Anthropic

GOOD AT

Good with long documents and clear, careful writing.

FREE VERSION

Yes, with daily limits

WHERE TO FIND IT

claude.ai or the app

Microsoft Copilot
Made by Microsoft

GOOD AT

Built into Windows and Edge. Handy if you use Outlook or Word.

FREE VERSION

Yes, with daily limits

WHERE TO FIND IT

copilot.microsoft.com or the app

For a beginner they are more alike than different. Pick one and start; the free version is enough.

Getting started for free, in five minutes

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1. **Open it**
   Go to the website, or download the app. The phone app works well in the yard.
2. **Sign up free**
   An email address is enough. No payment details for the free version.
3. **Ask in plain English**
   Type or speak as if you were asking a helpful neighbour.
4. **Give it detail**
   Say what kind of farm you run, what you need and how long the answer should be.
5. **Keep talking**
   Not right? Reply “shorter”, “simpler”, “as a table” or “explain that bit”.

Three habits from day one

1. Keep private things private

No bank details, passwords or other people’s personal details. Check the settings for an option to stop your chats being used for training.

2. Check what matters

Facts, figures and dates can be wrong even when the answer sounds sure.

3. You stay in charge

It is an assistant. You are responsible for anything you sign, send or submit.

A prompt that works, and five steps to start

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Clear instructions give better answers. Then check them honestly.

1. Pick one job you put off every week
2. Write it as a prompt using the pattern
3. Compare the answer with how you would do it
4. Check facts, figures and dates every time
5. Keep bank details and other people's personal details out

THE PROMPT PATTERN

Who you are

"I run a 120-cow dairy farm."

What you need

"List the actions and deadlines in this letter."

Who it is for

"Keep it plain English, I'm not an expert."

How you want it

"Use a short checklist. Say if anything is unclear."

From a letter or guidance to an action plan

Farming Advice Service

Let the AI do the first read, so you can focus on what to do next

WHERE

Any free AI assistant: upload a PDF, paste the text or take a photo

WHY IT HELPS

- Scheme guidance and official letters can take hours to read
- You need actions and dates, not pages
- Plain English helps you decide whether to call an adviser

Any AI assistant - try these prompts in order

1. *"Summarise this in five bullet points for a farmer. Use plain English."*
2. *"List every action, deadline and document it asks for. Say which page each is on."*
3. *"What does it not make clear? List questions I should ask."*
4. *"Turn this into a checklist with dates, most urgent first."*

Check before you rely on it: open the original and check every date and requirement. The AI summarises; it does not decide whether you are eligible.

AI Action Plan

- Document: How to comply with the Farming Rules for Water - GOV.UK

1 *"Summarise this in five bullet points for a farmer. Use plain English."*

Response In plain English:
plan what you are applying, don't spread where or when it could reach water, protect vulnerable soil and watercourses, and keep enough records to demonstrate what you have done.

Summary for a farmer

- **Plan before spreading.** Before applying manure or manufactured fertiliser, work out what the crop and soil actually need, consider the weather and check the risk of pollution. On cultivated land, relevant soil-test results must be no more than **5 years old**.
- **Keep fertiliser away from water.** Manufactured fertiliser must normally stay at least **2 m** from surface water, springs, wells and boreholes. Organic manure must normally stay **10 m** from surface water and **50 m** from a spring, well or borehole. Some precision equipment allows organic manure to be applied as close as **6 m** to surface water.
- **Do not spread in unsuitable conditions.** Do not apply fertiliser or manure to waterlogged, flooded or snow-covered soil, or where the soil has been frozen for more than **12 hours in the previous 24 hours**. You must also avoid spreading where there is a significant risk of pollution.
- **Protect soil and water from livestock and erosion.** Take reasonable steps to prevent runoff, erosion and poaching. Livestock must not poach land within **5 m** of surface water, and feeders must normally be at least **10 m** from surface water and **50 m** from springs, wells or boreholes.
- **Keep evidence that you are managing the risks.** The Environment Agency may inspect soil tests, nutrient plans, weather records, fertiliser records, manure storage, pollution-risk maps and whether distance restrictions are being followed. If problems are found, the Environment Agency will usually start by identifying changes and agreeing a timescale, although serious pollution can lead to formal enforcement.

AI Action Plan

- Document: How to comply with the Farming Rules for Water - GOV.UK

2 *"List every action, deadline and document it asks for. Say which page each it is on."*

Actions you must take

Page	Action
3	Assess pollution risks, including slope, ground cover, nearby water, soil condition and land drains.
3	Plan **every application** of organic manure or manufactured fertiliser.
3	Before spreading, check the application does not exceed crop or soil needs, assess pollution risk, and consider the weather forecast and conditions.
4	For cultivated agricultural land, use soil-test results when planning manure or fertiliser applications.

Deadlines and time limits

- **Soil tests:** results must be no more than **5 years old** when manure or fertiliser is applied. Page 4.
- **Frozen soil:** do not spread when soil has been frozen for more than **12 hours during the previous 24 hours**. Pages 4–5.
- **Incorporating manure or fertiliser:** one example of a reasonable precaution is working it into the soil within **12 hours, or as soon as possible** after application. Pages 5–6.
- **Environmental-benefit exception:** where all specified conditions are met, qualifying livestock manure may be applied between **1 June and 31 October**, up to **12.5 tonnes per hectare per year**. Page 5.

Documents and evidence to have available

The Environment Agency may check:

- **Soil-test results**, page 7.
- Evidence showing how nutrient applications were planned, for example a **nutrient management plan**, page 7.

AI Action Plan

- Document: How to comply with the Farming Rules for Water - GOV.UK

3 *"What does it not make clear? List questions I should ask."*

What the guidance does not make clear

The attached guidance leaves several things dependent on the individual farm, field, soil and circumstances:

1. **What counts as a "significant risk of pollution" on my fields?**
   The guidance lists factors to consider, such as slope, soil condition, drains and proximity to water, but it cannot tell you automatically whether a particular field is safe to spread on today.
2. **How should I calculate exactly how much nutrient my crop needs?**
   The guidance says applications must be planned so they do not exceed soil and crop requirements, but the right rate depends on crop, soil analysis, manure nutrient content and field history.

Questions I would ask

About my fields

- Which of my fields should I classify as high risk for runoff?
- Do I need a farm pollution-risk map, and what information should it show?
- Are there particular slopes, drains, gateways or watercourses I should mark as higher risk?

Before spreading

- Are my soil tests recent and detailed enough?
- What method should I use to calculate crop nutrient requirements?
- Does my spreading equipment qualify for the reduced 6 metre distance?
- What weather conditions would mean I should postpone spreading?

AI Action Plan

- Document: How to comply with the Farming Rules for Water - GOV.UK

4 *"Turn this into a checklist with dates, most urgent first."*

Before the next manure or fertiliser application

- ☐ **Check the field is safe to spread on today.** Do not apply where there is a significant pollution risk, including waterlogged, flooded or snow-covered land.
- ☐ **Check whether the ground has been frozen.** Do not spread if the soil has been frozen for more than **12 hours during the previous 24 hours.**
- ☐ **Check the weather forecast** and consider whether rainfall could cause runoff or pollution.
- ☐ **Work out what the crop and soil need** before deciding the application rate. Do not apply more nutrient than is required.

Questions to resolve before acting

- ☐ Does this particular field present a significant pollution risk?
- ☐ Does my equipment meet the conditions for the **6 m** provision?
- ☐ Are my soil tests suitable as well as less than five years old?
- ☐ What application rate matches the actual crop and soil requirement?
- ☐ Does any exception described in the guidance apply to this particular application?

From a voice note to a plan for the week

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Speak your notes in the tractor or the yard; let the AI organise them

WHERE

The app on your phone: tap the microphone and talk

WHY IT HELPS

- Jobs and phone calls get lost between the yard and the kitchen table
- Speaking is quicker than typing
- A clear list helps you and anyone working with you

Any AI assistant | try these prompts in order

1. *(Speak) "This week: ewes scanned Tuesday, ring Sam about the trailer, river fence is down, order mineral licks, vet Thursday for TB test."*
2. *"Turn that into a plan for the week, by day."*
3. *"List the phone calls and the things to buy separately."*
4. *"Anything without a day? Flag it rather than guess."*

Check before you rely on it: check names, days and anything urgent. If it has invented a day for a job, correct it.

AI Action Plan

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Plan for the week

When	Job
Monday	No job was specifically assigned to Monday.
Tuesday	**Ewes scanned.**
Wednesday	No job was specifically assigned to Wednesday.
Thursday	**Vet visit for TB test.**
Friday	No job was specifically assigned to Friday.

Phone calls

- ☐ Ring Sam about the trailer. ⚑ No day specified.

Things to buy

- ☐ Order mineral licks. ⚑ No day specified.

Needs attention, but no day was given

- ☐ Repair/check the river fence. ⚑ No day specified.
- ☐ Ring Sam about the trailer.
- ☐ Order mineral licks.

Next Prompt

"Now suggest an order of priority for the jobs without changing the fixed Tuesday and Thursday appointments. Explain why, and clearly label your suggestions rather than treating them as confirmed dates."

Example: making sense of an official letter

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AI assistant | example conversation

YOU

Explain this letter in plain English. What do they want me to do, and by when? Put the actions in a checklist.

"We will carry out an inspection at your holding on Tuesday 2 December at 10:00. Please make available your herd register, cattle passports and movement records for the past three years. Please confirm this date by 21 November or contact us to rearrange."

AI ASSISTANT

In short: someone is coming to check your cattle records on Tuesday 2 December at 10am.

- ☐ Confirm the date by 21 November, or ask to rearrange
- ☐ Find your herd register and cattle passports
- ☐ Check movement records for the past three years
- ☐ Make sure every animal on the farm has a passport

Then try

- "Draft a short reply confirming the date"
- "What should I have ready on the day?"
- "Explain any words I might not know"

Illustrative example: the letter is made up for this session; answer produced by an AI assistant and shortened to fit.

Example: changes in a renewed tenancy

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AI assistant | example conversation

YOU

Compare these two clauses from my tenancy. Show the differences in the table and explain what each means for me.

OLD: Rent £180/acre a year, paid half-yearly. Term 3 years. Tenant cuts hedges. 12 months' notice.

NEW: Rent £195/acre a year, paid quarterly in advance. Term 5 years. Tenant cuts hedges and maintains gates and troughs. 6 months' notice.

AI ASSISTANT

	Old	New	What it means for you
Rent	£180, half-yearly	£195, quarterly in advance	+£15/acre (8.3%), paid earlier
Term	3 years	5 years	More security, longer commitment
Repairs	Hedges	Hedges, gates, troughs	Extra cost to you
Notice	12 months	6 months	Less warning: both sides?

Take to your land agent

- Is the rise in line with local rents?
- Who pays to replace gates and troughs?
- Does 6 months' notice apply to the landlord too?

Illustrative example: clauses written for this session; answer produced by an AI assistant and shortened to fit. Not legal advice.

Where AI can help and what needs more care

Farming Advice Service

START HERE
Low risk, quick wins

- Explaining letters and guidance
- Drafting emails, posts and replies
- Tidying notes into tables
- Planning the week from a voice note
- Preparing questions for your adviser

USE WITH CARE
Useful, but check before you act

- Comparing contracts: then see your land agent
- Market price estimates: check the sums
- Summarising scheme rules: check the source
- First-draft risk assessments
- Records: keep the originals

LEAVE TO PEOPLE
Do not hand these over

- Deciding if you are eligible for a scheme or grant
- Diagnosing sick animals or crops
- Legal, tax or financial advice
- Signing off records or claims
- Anything with bank details or others' personal data

AI drafts. You decide.

When it matters, ask your vet, agronomist or adviser, or call the Farming Advice Service on 03000 200 301.

Farming Advice Service

- Technical advice line: 03000 200 301
- Email: advice@farmingadviceservice.org.uk
- Website: farmingadviceservice.org.uk

The Farming Advice Service is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). We provide free, confidential advice to help farmers and land managers in England understand and meet the legal requirements in English law around certain farming activities to protect people, livestock and the environment.

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Reference slides

Not presented in the webinar

Included for anyone who wants to go further once the slides are shared on the Farming Advice Service website. Some of these examples use paid workplace tools.

Asking questions of a farm business table

Farming Advice Service

Excel with Microsoft 365 Copilot (paid workplace licence)

WHERE

Excel, with a synthetic field performance or enterprise costs table

WHY IT MATTERS

- Most businesses already hold useful data in spreadsheets
- Copilot lets non specialists ask questions in plain language
- Patterns become a starting point for better questions

Paid workplace AI | example prompts

1. *Describe this table and check for missing values, odd units or duplicates.*
2. *Which fields have the lowest gross margin per hectare? Show the calculation.*
3. *Create a chart comparing yield and input cost by field.*
4. *Suggest three questions I should investigate before drawing any conclusions.*

CHECK BEFORE USE Reproduce key figures yourself. A pattern is a reason to investigate, not a conclusion.

Three agents, built without code

Farming Advice Service

Microsoft 365 Copilot Agent Builder (paid workplace licence)

HELP ME THINK

Rural Business Adviser

Summarises supplied guidance and structures options, opportunities and risks.

Try: "I run a mixed livestock farm. What diversification options should I explore, and what are the risks?"

KNOWLEDGE

Defra and Farming Advice Service guidance, rural diversification material

HELP ME PREPARE

Grant Guidance Assistant

Extracts explicit criteria, evidence needs and missing information from scheme guidance.

Try: "What evidence does this scheme explicitly ask for? Build me a checklist."

KNOWLEDGE

Current scheme rules, application guidance and RPA material

HELP ME COMPLY

Environmental Compliance Assistant

Finds obligations stated in approved guidance and turns them into a plan.

Try: "Summarise the obligations for a mixed farm and create a 90 day plan."

KNOWLEDGE

Environment Agency and Natural England guidance, stewardship material

GUARDRAILS Answer only from supplied sources, cite them, flag gaps. Never decide eligibility, compliance or legal position.