

Farming
Advice Service

Welcome to the Farming Advice Service newsletter

Thank you for continuing to subscribe to our monthly newsletter. We hope we are providing you with a valuable service, but welcome any feedback or suggestions on topics you would like to see covered in future editions.

Contact us

FAS technical advice line: 03000 200 301

advice@farmingadvice.org.uk

farmingadvice.org.uk

June 2021 – Issue 64

Key dates

How can FAS help you?

Remember, the 2021 English agricultural census is open

An update on the Agriculture Transition Plan, Sustainable Farming Incentive and payment strategy

Livestock registration and identification

The Livestock Information Service for reporting sheep, goat and deer movements launching in November

Farming Rules for Water: Rule 7 – protection against soil erosion by livestock

Apply for the England Woodland Creation Offer

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in agriculture

Farming Community Network asks if the industry is really 'as tough as old boots'

Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) updates from the TB hub

Don't forget, the restrictions on tree and hedge-cutting are in place until September

Sign up to FAS services



Key dates

Below are details of forthcoming key dates that you should be aware of.

16 July	The deadline to request a Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier application pack online using the Rural Payment Service has been extended from 30 June to 16 July. (GOV.UK)
30 July	This is the deadline for the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to receive paper and online Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier applications, including Wildlife Offers. (GOV.UK)
1 August	If you have been granted a derogation by the RPA, you may be able to cut or trim hedges throughout August for the purpose of sowing oilseed rape or temporary grassland during that month. (GAEC* 7a)
1 August	For any land in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), this is the start of the closed period for applying organic manure with a high, readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to tillage land on shallow or sandy soils, except where crops will be sown on or before 15 September. (SMR** 1)

* GAEC = Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition

** SMR = Statutory Management Requirement

FAS has produced a handy, printable, one-page poster of all the cross compliance dates for 2021, which you can access and download from [here](#).

For more details about the information provided in the key dates table, please visit the [Guide to cross compliance in England 2021](#), the [Rural Payments Agency key dates 2021](#) and [BPS 2021](#) pages of GOV.UK

How can FAS help you?

Free and confidential advice

FAS provides **free, confidential** advice on cross compliance requirements, some aspects of the Water Framework Directive (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (such as silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil (SSAFO), and waste exemptions) and regulations on the sustainable use of pesticides. The cross compliance rules apply to you if you are a Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship claimant.

FAS updates the farming sector on relevant Government farming policy that is applicable in England and the actions that can be taken to help farmers to be compliant with regulations.

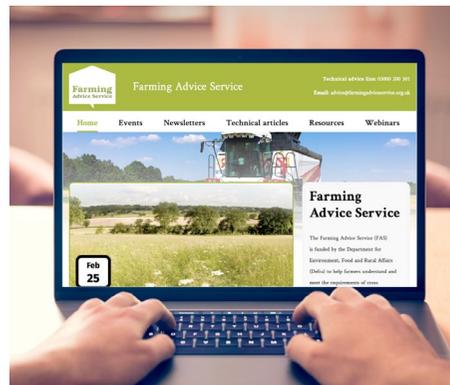
England's domestic farming legislation requires an advisory system that covers cross compliance, water protection and aspects of pesticide use. In England, this is provided by the Farming Advice Service (FAS). The advice given to individual farmers must be **confidential** – that is, FAS **must not** disclose any personal or individual information, or data it obtains during its advisory activities.

Getting in contact with the advice line

Farmers requiring telephone advice from FAS can contact the **Rural Services Helpline** on 03000 200 301 Monday to Friday between 08:30 and 17:00. The helpline is operating as normal.

The Rural Services Helpline provides a single number for all FAS, Rural Payments Agency, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Natural England and forestry enquiries. By providing a single point of contact, the Government aims to make it simpler for farmers to access technical guidance on a range of topics, including cross compliance, agricultural payment schemes and animal health inspections.

You can also email enquiries to advice@farmingadvice.org.uk



Remember, the 2021 English agricultural census is open

This article includes information on the 2021 agricultural census that opened at the start of June, with links to guidance notes and where you can complete it.

The agricultural census is run every 10 years and all active, commercial farms in England are required to complete it. The collection of the information is important and is mandatory under the [Agricultural Statistics Act 1979](#). The 2021 census will gather information on land use, crop areas, livestock numbers and farm labour. This data provides the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) with the information needed to agree industry priorities, make the right decisions on investment and design policies which meet the needs of farmers. Similar information is collected by the appropriate authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland allowing Defra to produce results for the UK.

If you have an active, commercial holding, you should have received an email or letter that included information on how to complete the census. If you have not received any correspondence and you believe you should have, or you would like some help in completing the census, please contact Defra on 03000 600 140 or email surveys@defra.gov.uk. The helpline is available Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 16:30.

The link to the June census is [here](#). Defra has published documents on the methodology of the survey, the standard outputs and farm types, frequently asked questions and guidance notes, which are on GOV.UK [here](#).

An update on the Agriculture Transition Plan, Sustainable Farming Incentive and payment strategy



The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has published two important documents today (30 June 2021) that provide more information about environmental land management schemes. They follow the [Agricultural Transition Plan](#), published in November 2020.

The [Agricultural Transition Plan update](#) provides more detail on the early rollout of the Sustainable Farming Incentive in 2022, including which standards Defra is including in the offer.

The Payment Principles [document](#) sets out the approach to environmental scheme payments throughout the transition, not just new environmental land management schemes, but also mature ones such as Countryside Stewardship, and transitional schemes such as [Farming in Protected Landscapes](#) (applications open on 1 July 2021).

Sustainable Farming Incentive

The Sustainable Farming Incentive will accelerate the large-scale adoption of more sustainable approaches on all types of farms, building on the excellent practices that are already happening on many farms.

In 2022, the core elements that will be available are:

- arable and horticultural soils;
- improved grassland soils;
- moorland and rough grazing;
- Annual Health and Welfare Review.

The environmental standards will be open to farmers who are eligible for payments under the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). The Annual Health and Welfare Review will initially be available for all commercial cattle, pig and sheep keepers who are eligible for BPS.

Defra will gradually expand the scheme until all elements are available from 2024/25 onwards.

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

For many farmers, the Annual Health and Welfare Review will be their first step on the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway, which is the shared ambition of the industry and the Government to produce healthier animals with higher standards of welfare.

The Review will support a better understanding of the health and welfare of the national herd/flock and enable Defra to target future support in the right way at farm and national level. Defra will also be launching animal health and welfare grants, support for endemic disease and piloting payment-by-results as part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway.

The bigger picture

Since publishing the [Agricultural Transition Plan](#) in November 2020, Defra has made significant progress on and improvements to Direct Payments, environmental and climate outcomes, farming prosperity, and regulation and enforcement.

Among other things, Defra has invited [2,000 farmers to apply](#) for the Sustainable Farming Incentive pilot, launched a [consultation on the approach to the lump sum exit scheme and delinked payments](#), and made simplifications to the 2021 BPS offer.

Building on that momentum, Defra is providing this policy update and sharing payment principles to help prepare farmers for the changes to come – enabling them to make the right decisions for them and their business.

Stay up to date

[Subscribe to the Defra Future Farming blog](#) to make sure you don't miss any policy updates. And don't forget to sign up to [Defra's e-alerts](#) if you haven't already.

Livestock registration and identification

In the most recent cross compliance inspection results from 2019, the percentage of inspected farms failing on livestock identification and registration is still high. In this article, FAS provides information, links to guidance and technical articles to help clarify the rules.



If you keep pigs, cattle, sheep or goats, you are required to record certain information about them, such as date of birth, identification details and movements on to or off your holding, to help control the spread of disease and enable them to be traced. This is required as part of cross compliance Statutory Management Requirements, ([SMR 6 \(pig identification and registration\)](#)), ([SMR 7 \(cattle identification and registration\)](#)) and ([SMR 8 \(sheep and goat identification\)](#)).

SMR 6: Pig identification and registration

The percentage of inspection failures for pig identification and registration in 2019 was much lower than cattle, sheep and goats at 11.5%. Therefore FAS has not produced a technical article for pig identification and registration. However, some of the key requirements are listed below and can be found on GOV.UK:

- [register your holding and animals](#);
- [identify animals before moving them](#);
- [report and record movements to or from your holding](#).

SMR 7: Cattle identification and registration

The percentage of inspection failures for cattle identification and registration in 2019 was 47% – this is lower than the 2018 result which was 50%, however it is still very high. Most failures were due to failure to report movements, the details of the movement and reporting the death of an animal. There were also several breaches for animals not being found in farm records, the incorrect date of birth and lost tags. The number and detail of non-compliance can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

FAS has produced an article on the top tips for complying with cattle identification and registration rules, which can be [downloaded for free from the](#)

[FAS website](#) and includes information on how, where and when to report movements and deaths. There is also information to help with eartags and passports.

SMR 8: Sheep and goat identification

The percentage of inspection failures for sheep and goat identification in 2019 was 21.6% (this is a slight increase from the 2018 result which was 21.3%). Most failures were because of the failure to report movements, deaths, births, replacement tags, and annual inventories not being completed. The number and detail of non-compliances can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

FAS has produced an article on the top tips for complying with sheep and goat identification and registration rules, which can be [downloaded for free from the FAS website](#) and includes information on how, where and when to update your records. Please note – from November 2021, the current Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS) will be replaced with the Livestock Information Service. For more information, please go to [page 6](#).

Holding registers

There are blank sample holding registers available for cattle, and sheep and goats that will provide a clear template for capturing the information you require for your livestock records. You can use these as evidence at inspection that you have been compliant with the requirements.

- for cattle, please click [here](#);
- for sheep and goats, please click [here](#).

If you have any questions or require further support, please contact the FAS helpline by telephone 03000 200 301 or email advice@farmingadvice.service.org.uk.

The Livestock Information Service for reporting sheep, goat and deer movements will be launched in November 2021, replacing the current Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS)



Livestock Information Limited is a new company, set up to improve how animal traceability is managed in England and identify when moves occur between England, Wales and Scotland. Livestock Information's plan is to improve the ways that animal movements are reported, replacing the current systems used for reporting sheep (ovine), cattle (bovine) and pig (porcine) movements in several phases and, in the future, moving to a paperless process. The first process and system to be replaced is for reporting sheep, goat and deer movements. This will happen in November 2021, replacing the current Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS). In 2022 and 2023 processes and systems for cattle (British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS)) and pig (Electronic Movement Licensing (eAML2)) movements will be replaced.

The new sheep service will be used by markets (some 65% of movements come from markets), abattoirs (about 7%), those who report on paper (about 20%) and those using the website (5%) – the remainder are moves between England, Scotland and Wales. Livestock Information is planning to begin communications with the livestock industry – engaging with keepers, including farmers, abattoirs, markets and hauliers and other key stakeholders – to explain how they can register for the new service and what they may need to do differently.

If you currently record your livestock movements on paper only or through a farm software package, the new Livestock Information Service will not feel very different to the current ARAMS service to begin with. This is deliberate – it's vital that there is continuity between the old and new services, before any improvements and additional features can be added. Also, the law currently requires that all movements are recorded on paper, even if also done so electronically.

Any subsequent changes to the ways in which livestock movements are reported and recorded will be subject to the usual period of public consultation by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and changes to legislation after that. Although the Livestock Information Service multispecies service for cattle, sheep, goats, deer and pigs is being built for England, Livestock Information and Defra are working closely with the UK devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to agree how livestock data will be shared across borders to ensure full traceability throughout the UK.

For further information, email info@livestockinformation.org.uk

Farming Rules for Water: Rule 7 – protection against soil erosion by livestock

The Farming Rules for Water have been in place since April 2018. The aim of the rules is to promote good practice and tackle diffuse water pollution from agriculture. All farmers in England must comply with them. There are eight rules and this article covers Rule 7 – protection against soil erosion by livestock.

Rule 7: Any land within 5 metres of inland freshwaters and coastal waters must be protected from significant soil erosion by preventing poaching (trampling) by livestock. The regulations define livestock poaching along a watercourse to be a continuous stretch which is at least 2 metres wide and 20 metres long.

Examples on how to prevent this include:

- moving livestock regularly to prevent poaching and bankside erosion;
- putting up fences to keep animals away from watercourses;
- out-wintering livestock on well-drained, level fields.

For detailed guidance on the Farming Rules for Water and to find out [how inspectors check](#) you are complying with the rules please visit GOV.UK.

FAS has produced a suite of resources to help you understand the Farming Rules for Water, including a [technical article](#) and a webinar recording and Q&A document that can be accessed [here](#). All the FAS resources are free and if you require further support, please contact the FAS helpline by telephone 03000 200 301 or email advice@farmingadvice.org.uk.





Apply for the England Woodland Creation Offer

Landowners, land managers and public bodies can apply to the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) for support to create new woodland on areas as small as 1 hectare. EWCO opened for applications on 9 June 2021 and replaces the Woodland Carbon Fund, which closed for applications in March 2021. You can only currently apply for work you will complete and claim for by 31 March 2023. This article includes a summary on eligibility and how to apply – the full details are on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

This grant is administered by the Forestry Commission and is funded through the Nature for Climate Fund. EWCO is one of a suite of Forestry Commission initiatives to support woodland creation and tree planting across England.

Eligibility

Land is eligible if it is:

- in England;
- within the full management control of the applicant (and any counter-signatories, where applicable);
- not already classified as woodland;
- not subject to any existing legal requirement or obligation to create woodland;

- not subject to a dispute between landlords and tenants;
- not currently within an existing grant agreement that has more than five months left to run at the time the EWCO application is submitted (see [How do I transition my woodland creation scheme into the England Woodland Creation Offer](#) for more information).

How to apply

You can apply year-round (remember, the work must be completed and claimed for by 31 March 2023). The Forestry Commission is aiming to acknowledge applications and to let people know if there is information missing within three working days (this may take longer during peak periods). Funding decisions can take 12 to 20 weeks from receiving a valid application.

The application forms and complete guidance are available [here](#). You can return application forms by email to EWCO@forestrycommission.gov.uk, or by sending paper copies to the following address:

England Woodland Creation Offer –
EWCO
Forestry Commission
National Office, England
620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1EJ

If you decide to appoint an agent to apply for funding on your behalf, you must complete a [Forestry Commission agent authority form](#) to give your consent.

Please visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for more information.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in agriculture

What you are required to do to comply with the EIA (Agriculture) regulations is covered by cross compliance rules under Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition ([GAEC](#)) 6: [Maintenance of soil organic matter](#). There are also standalone [regulations](#). In this article, FAS provides an overview to EIA with links to further information.

The EIA regulations protect rural land in England, which is semi-natural or uncultivated, from changes in agricultural activities that might cause damage by increasing productivity and/or physically restructuring a holding, for example by changing field boundaries.

Semi-natural land includes [priority habitats](#), heritage or archaeological features, or protected landscapes. It's usually land that has not been intensively farmed, such as unimproved grassland or lowland heath.

Uncultivated land is land that has not been cultivated in the past 15 years by physical means (e.g. ploughing or an activity that breaks the soil surface) or chemical means (e.g. adding fertiliser or soil improvers).

When to get permission to change the use of rural land

Natural England must decide if your proposal to change the use of semi-natural or uncultivated rural land is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. You must [apply for this decision](#), known as an 'EIA screening decision', before you change the use of rural land including:

- increasing productivity of land for agriculture;
- restoring semi-natural grassland or semi-natural heathland;
- restructuring rural land holdings.

Please visit [GOV.UK](#) for more details.

Applying for a screening decision

An Environmental Screening Report template compiled by Natural England is available on [GOV.UK](#). This will guide you through your application and ensure that you have included the appropriate information.

There is also a standardised consultation letter to issue to relevant consultees for your application. This has been developed in conjunction with the relevant archaeological consultees and Local Environmental Record Centres. Finally, Natural England also provides a checklist that can be used to ensure that all the required information has been provided. These documents and additional advice can be obtained from the EIA team at Natural England, who can be contacted on 0800 028 2140 or eia.England@naturalengland.org.uk.



Farming Community Network asks if the industry is really 'as tough as old boots'

With mental illness an increasing concern in farming, the Farming Community Network (FCN) charity is asking the farming community if it's really 'as tough as old boots' to encourage open conversations and reduce stigma.



A 2021 study by the Farm Safety Foundation suggests 88% of young farmers now rate poor mental health as the biggest hidden problem faced by farmers today. Meanwhile, 89% of young farmers believe that talking about mental health in farming will remove any stigma attached to it.

FCN is a national charity that supports farmers and farming families during difficult times. FCN has volunteers in England and Wales and operates a free confidential helpline (03000 111 999) open 7am to 11pm and an e-helpline (help@fcn.org.uk). FCN helps approximately 6,000 people each year.

FCN is involved in a range of initiatives to help support farmers' mental health and wellbeing. The charity has developed a campaign to encourage the farming community to talk about mental health. To do this, it has produced a series of graphics and a poster asking readers, 'Are you really as tough as old boots?'. It also breaks down some of the ways in which people might put on a brave face and avoid talking about difficult topics such as suicide, bereavement, loneliness and feeling overwhelmed.

The charity hopes readers will share the poster with GP surgeries, veterinary clinics, village halls and more to let those living and working in rural and farming communities know that help is available. The poster is available to download via the [FCN website](#).

FCN, working with The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs and The DPJ Foundation, recently launched new Rural+ mental health awareness training modules, aimed at young 10 to 26 YFC members and 16 to 25-year-old agriculture students. The training helps to support young farmers in understanding mental health, managing change and staying resilient during difficult or uncertain times.

Are you really as tough as old boots?



Stress, anxiety, loneliness, bereavement, depression, retirement, illness, family concerns, worries about the future...

We all experience these things at some stage in our lives.

If you need to talk, we're here to listen.

Call 03000 111 999

Email help@fcn.org.uk

We are farming people and we are here to help.

FCN | THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

FCN is also involved in research with the University of Exeter examining farmers' experiences of loneliness, isolation and mental illness. Findings will help to improve mental health support to the farming community. If you are a farmer and would like to be interviewed as part of this research, please email Rebecca Wheeler on R.Wheeler3@exeter.ac.uk.

Earlier this year, FCN helped to launch two short films featuring farmers who have experienced mental ill-health and initially struggled to ask for help. The videos have a positive message, highlighting why it is important to seek support and to talk about what we're going through when times are tough.

The films are available here:

- Farming and Better Mental Health:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6U7oT_kdVk
- The Hill Farmer:
<https://vimeo.com/507036647>

FCN also provides business resilience and mental wellbeing information to help support the farming community in planning ahead and managing change. Visit its FarmWell website at www.farmwell.org.uk for a wealth of free information, including content around diversification, succession planning, retirement and more.

RURAL +

Creating a positive
future for the next
generation of
farmers

Learn more about Rural+ training:
www.nfyfc.org.uk/ruralpluscurve



Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) updates from the TB hub

There are three important developments from the TB hub: an introduction to the successor to the TB Advisory Service; Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHECS) membership; and details on six-monthly testing in the High-Risk Area (HRA).



TB Advisory Service

The first is the introduction of the successor to the TB Advisory Service (TBAS). The main aim of the new TBAS is the successful delivery of advice and reports to participants throughout England, with two main objectives to help control and reduce the spread of bovine TB.

- The first is to maintain and improve biosecurity measures, developing herd resilience in infected herds and protecting uninfected herds. This will be executed via an initial visit from a TBAS advisor, creating an action plan with the farmer, and conducting a follow-up visit within six months to assess implementation of the biosecurity measures and provide further advice via telephone as necessary.
- The second over-arching objective of TBAS is to ensure that there is mitigation of risks when moving and trading cattle. This will be achieved by providing advice via on-farm visits, telephone, email and through local farmer meetings.

The TBAS successor will also provide bespoke advice to keepers of non-bovine farmed animals. A provider of the successor to the TBAS is currently being selected, and further marketing material will be provided when this decision is confirmed.

CHECS Entry Level Membership

The [CHECS TB programmes](#) aim to recognise and reward cattle farmers who take a proactive approach to controlling TB.

A further element of CHECS' is the 'Entry Level Membership' scheme, launched in May 2021, focusing on biosecurity 'basics' to help farmers reduce the risk of TB breakdowns in their cattle herds. Both herd accreditation and the 'Entry Level Membership' scheme are available from CHECS-licensed health scheme providers and operate on the principle of adopting low-cost, easily achievable biosecurity measures and working with the herd veterinary surgeon to minimise the risk of TB entering the herd.

The Entry Level Membership aims to provide vets and farmers with an opportunity to discuss TB risk on-farm at a basic level and for the farmer to engage in the concept of biosecurity risk pathways. The concept of good biosecurity is one based on science and evidence of routes of transmission, but these first steps are ones that all herd owners will see as common sense, requiring little time, effort or financial investment.

The Entry Level Membership will form the basis for full TB Herd Accreditation, with members initially joining via the scheme and progressing through to full herd accreditation. Those already on full herd accreditation will have to

complete those measures for the Entry Level Scheme. Further information can be found on the TB hub [here](#).

Six-monthly testing in the High-Risk Area (HRA)

Following a public consultation, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced in 2018 that default six-monthly surveillance testing of cattle herds would replace annual testing in the High Risk Area (HRA) of England from 2020. To reduce the burden on cattle keepers and the Veterinary Delivery Partners who carry out the TB testing, six-monthly surveillance testing was initially introduced in Staffordshire and Shropshire in September 2020. From July 2021, default six-monthly testing will be extended into the rest of the HRA. The additional tests will be scheduled from 1 July 2021 and conducted from 1 January 2022. Herds at lower risk of a TB breakdown that meet prescribed criteria have the option to remain on annual surveillance testing. The increased frequency of surveillance testing enables TB-infected cattle to be identified at an earlier stage, thereby reducing the likelihood of a bTB spread within the herd and transmission to other herds. Further information can be found on the TB hub [here](#).

The TB hub has several useful resources such as factsheets, podcasts and FAQs on aspects of bovine TB which you can access [here](#).

Don't forget, the restrictions on tree and hedge-cutting are in place until September

The closed period that places a ban on cutting and trimming hedges and trees between 1 March and 31 August (inclusive) is a cross compliance requirement under Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) 7a: Boundaries and GAEC 7c: Trees. This article includes reminders of the rules and when you can apply for a derogation.

If you are a Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) applicant, have a Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship agreement (starting 1 January 2007 or later) or claim the Woodland Management Grant and Farm Woodland Premium elements of the English Woodland Grant Scheme, then you must adhere to these requirements across your whole holding, which may include woodland, or you could receive a reduction in your payments.

Please note, fruit and nut trees in orchards, or trees acting as windbreaks in orchards, vineyards, hop yards or hop gardens are not included in the ban.

Other exemptions to the hedge and tree-cutting closed period include:

- if a tree or hedge overhangs a highway, road or footpath, which is a risk to vehicles, pedestrians or horse-riders;
- if a tree or hedge is dead, diseased or insecurely rooted, which may result in it falling on to a highway, road or footpath;
- carrying out hedge-laying or coppicing during 1 March to 30 April (inclusive).

You can apply to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in writing for a derogation under the following circumstances:

- to enhance the environment, improve public or agricultural access, or for reasons relating to livestock or crop production;
- to cut or trim a hedgerow or a tree in a hedgerow during the month of August for the purposes of sowing oil seed rape or temporary grassland throughout that month. If you are applying for this derogation you are encouraged to submit this as early as possible.

You should wait for written permission from the RPA before carrying out any work.

The RPA can be contacted by email (ruralpayments@defra.gov.uk). Please ensure the subject line includes your Single Business Identifier (SBI) and states 'Cross compliance 2021 derogation' to ensure it is directed to the correct team. Please be aware that a derogation to cut a tree within a hedgerow would need to be considered under:

- [GAEC 7c: Trees](#) – with respect to the tree itself;
- [GAEC 7a: Boundaries](#) – with respect to the hedgerow that the tree is a part of.

This mirrors the situation where, if a felling licence has been issued to fell trees in a hedge, permission will also be required from your local planning authority under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 if it is proposed to remove part of the hedgerow. It is advisable to apply early if you think you will require a derogation from this requirement.

Full details of the requirements can be found in [The guide to cross compliance in England 2021](#).



Sign up to FAS services



Get the latest updates by following FAS on Twitter

Follow us on [@DefraFAS](https://twitter.com/DefraFAS) for up-to-the-minute updates on publications, events and industry information.



Subscribe to the free FAS Newsletter

If you don't already receive the FREE monthly FAS newsletter, please email bookings@farmingadvice.org.uk with '**Register for newsletter**' in the subject line. Alternatively, please visit farmingadvice.org.uk and enter your email address into the newsletter sign up box.

In line with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the UK Data Protection Act 2018, FAS has updated its privacy policy to explain how your data is kept safe.

To view the policy, please visit www.farmingadvice.org.uk/events/privacy/