



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Agricultural Transition Period

An overview of changes to English agricultural policy
2021-2027



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Introduction to the Agricultural Transition

We will support farmers and land managers to:

- improve the environment
- improve animal health and welfare
- reduce carbon emissions and store more carbon
- support resilience to climate change risks
- make their businesses sustainable

We will make changes from 2021 to 2027.

Introduction to the Agricultural Transition

Less:

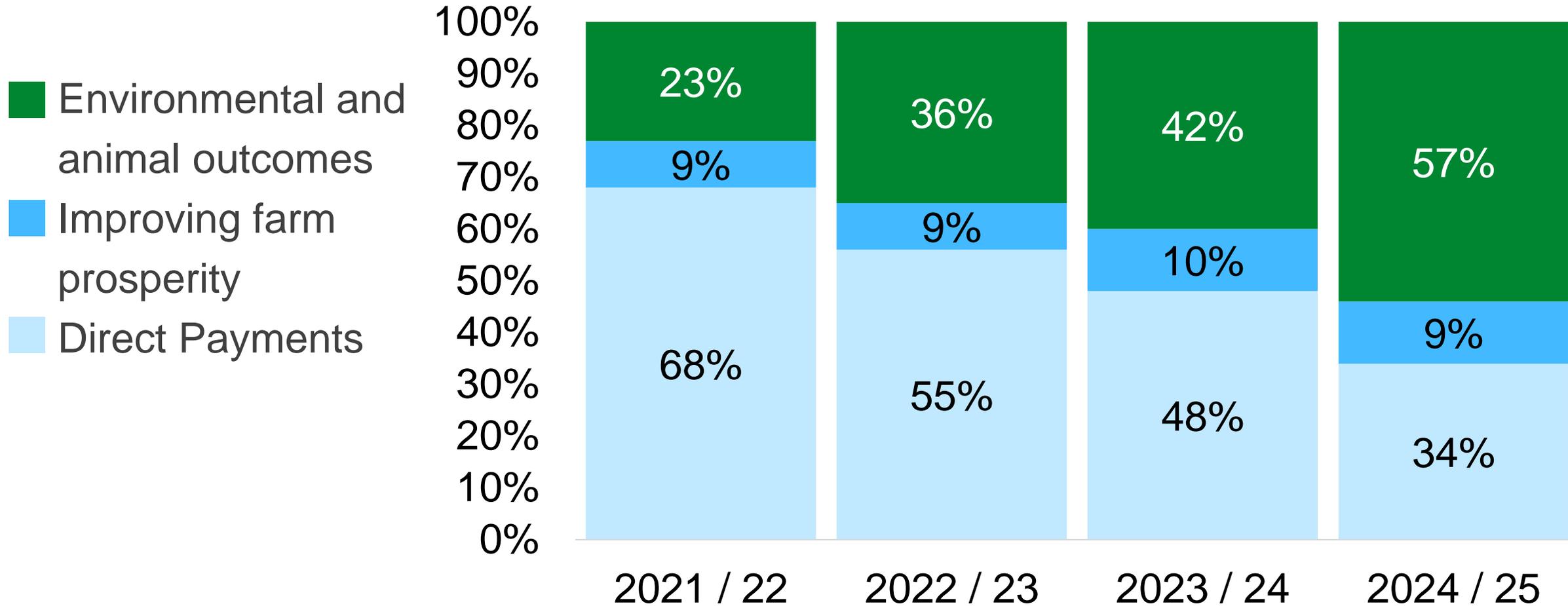
top-down rule setting, needless bureaucracy, strict enforcement

More:

collaborative design, flexibility, frequent and useful change, genuine support

We will focus on outcomes.

Changes in funding



Changes to Direct Payments

2021 simplifications

Removal of greening rules.

Removal of entitlement usage rule.

Simplified arrangements for farmers with land in England and another part of the UK.

Extension of deadline for farmers to apply for force majeure.

Delinked and lump sum payments

We plan to 'delink' payments – we will remove the requirement to farm the land.

We plan to delink payments in 2024.

Looking to offer a one-off lump exit scheme.

We have consulted industry on the details of delinking and lump sum payments and will publish a response soon.

Environmental land management schemes

Sustainable Farming Incentive	Local Nature Recovery	Landscape Recovery
Simple actions that achieve environmental outcomes – a foundation.	Locally-targeted environmental goals. Encourages collaboration.	Landscape and ecosystem recovery through long-term, land use change projects.

Countryside Stewardship (CS)

CS 2023 offer to open in February 2022.

Review of CS payment rates effective from January 2022.

We will increase the majority of payment rates for all CS agreements with effect from this month. Average increase of around 30%.

We have:

- made it easier to submit applications electronically
- reduced evidence needed to support applications
- changed approach to inspections
- fairer and more proportionate penalties

Local Nature Recovery

“The improved and more ambitious successor to the Countryside Stewardship scheme in England”

Taking the best of Countryside Stewardship, and adding more elements



Initially it will cover the following themes

- wildlife feeding, shelter and breeding areas
- grassland, lowland heathland, wetland and coastal habitats
- upland and lowland peat and moorland
- recovery and reintroduction of particular wildlife species
- managing and creating trees and woodlands
- nature-based solutions for water
- restoring rivers, flood plains, streams and riparian habitats



Eligibility

Open to farmers, foresters and other land managers.

Open to farmers in SFI.

Accessible to tenant farmers and those farming common land.



Collaboration, agreements and monitoring

Flexible, multi-year agreements.

Mostly individual agreements but supporting collaboration.

More supportive and less punitive approach to checking compliance.



Testing and roll out

Different to the SFI pilot.

Testing this year, then early version available to limited number of people in 2023.

More information later this year on how farmers can get involved in testing and scheme rules, options and payment rates.

Roll out across country by the end of 2024.



Landscape Recovery

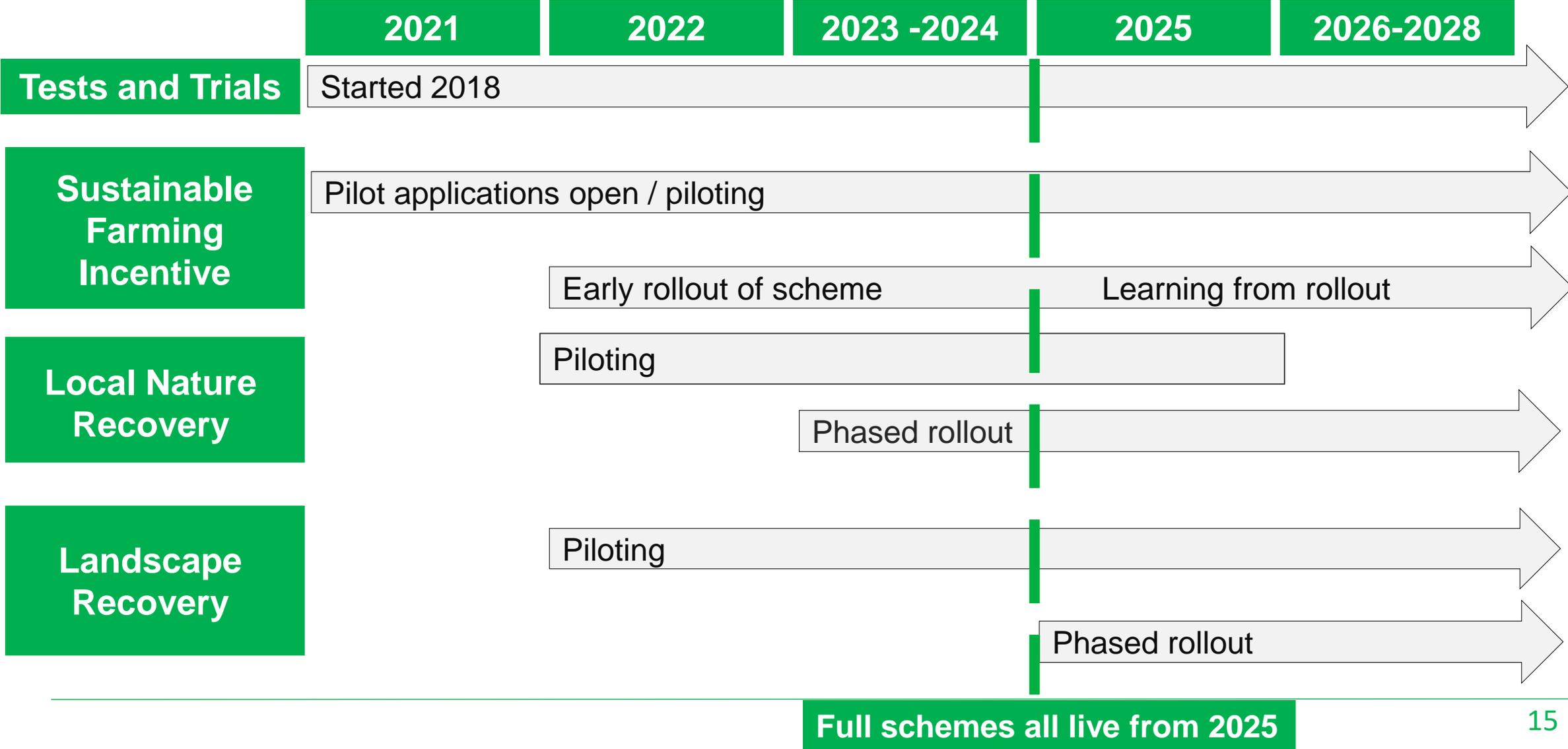
Aimed at landowners and managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach to producing environmental and climate goods on their land.

Initial focus on biodiversity, water quality and net zero.

Open to any individuals or groups who want to deliver 500 – 5000ha scale projects.



The three environmental land management schemes



Annual Health and Welfare Review

Yearly farm visit from a vet or vet-led team.

Initially available to farmers in England who are eligible for BPS and who keep more than 50 pigs, 20 sheep or 10 cattle.



Other schemes

- Farming Investment Fund
- Future Farming Resilience Fund
- Farming Innovation Programme
- Farming in Protected Landscapes
- Tree planting and tree health



The Farming Investment Fund

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

Smaller investments: The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund.

Deadline - noon 7 January 2022

Larger investments: The Farming Transformation Fund.

Deadline for Water Management Theme eligibility checker - 12 January 2022

Applications deadline – 30 June 2022

Future Farming Resilience Fund

- Support to more farmers and land managers to help them plan for the future
- We'll provide business advice and support services until 2024
- Awards grants to organisations so that they can support farmers and land managers who are in receipt of BPS



Farming Innovation Programme

Supporting projects to transform productivity and enhance environmental sustainability, while driving the sectors towards net zero.

3 funds:

- Industry-led Research and Development Partnerships Fund
- Farming Futures Research and Development Fund (open early 2022)
- Projects to Accelerate Adoption Fund (open later in 2022)

Farming in Protected Landscapes

Programme of funding for one-off projects.

Supporting projects that:

- support nature recovery
- mitigate the impacts of climate change
- provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses



Woodland creation

The following incentives will stay available:

- Woodland Creation Planning Grant
- Countryside Stewardship
- Woodland Carbon Fund
- HS2 Woodland Fund
- Woodland Carbon Guarantee



Changes to regulation and enforcement

By the end of the transition, we will have a reformed regulatory approach for agriculture.

As we make improvements to the regulatory baseline, we will:

- simplify
- be proportionate
- support and enable
- prioritise
- use evidence

The new regulatory approach will be implemented in 2024.

How farmers can get involved

- Take part in stakeholder workshops
- Send views to farming organisations, who we work with
- Apply for scheme pilots
- Share your views during consultations
- Be involved in co-design – ffcpcodesign@defra.gov.uk

Sign up to the Defra [e-alert](#) and [subscribe to our blog](#) to hear about opportunities to contribute.

Any questions?

Jonathan Baker Jonathan.baker@defra.gov.uk

Sam Dovey sam.dovey@defra.gov.uk

