



Farming
Advice Service

Welcome to the Farming Advice Service newsletter

Thank you for continuing to subscribe to our monthly newsletter. We hope you find the content useful and 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

April 2022 – Issue 74

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Key dates

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

30 April	For any land located in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), you must have recorded the number of 'specified' livestock kept on your farm during the previous calendar year and calculated the amount of nitrogen they produced by this date. You must also record the number and type of livestock in a building or hardstanding during the previous storage period. (SMR* 1)
1 May	You must not carry out hedge or tree coppicing or hedge laying from this date. (GAEC** 7a and GAEC 7c)
16 May	The deadline for Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) 2022 applications without penalty is midnight on 16 May (including young and new farmer applications). This is also the deadline to transfer entitlements and to have the land at your disposal. (GOV.UK)
16 May	The deadline for Countryside Stewardship (CS) and Environmental Stewardship (ES) revenue claims without penalty is midnight on 16 May. To be eligible for a CS or ES revenue payment for 2022 you must submit a valid claim by the deadline. (GOV.UK)

* SMR = Statutory Management Requirement

** GAEC = Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition

In case you missed them...

15 March	Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) 2022 application window opened. (BPS 2022)
15 March	Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship annual revenue claims opened. (GOV.UK)
1 April	If you hold an abstraction licence which authorises winter and/or all-year-round abstraction (this excludes abstraction authorised to take place wholly within the period 1 April to 31 October inclusive), the Environment Agency would have asked you at the end of March 2022 to report your water abstraction return for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. You will need to submit your return by 28 April 2022. You can submit your return online by registering with the Agency's Water Resource Licensing Service . (GAEC 2)
1 April	You must not burn heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse or vaccinium on land, other than in upland areas, from this date. (GAEC 6)
16 April	You must not burn heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse or vaccinium in upland areas from this date. The burning season is from 1 October to 15 April for upland areas and from 1 November to 31 March for land not within an upland area. (GAEC 6)

For more details about the information provided in the key dates table, please visit the [Guide to cross compliance in England 2022](#) and [Rural Payments Agency key dates 2022](#) pages of GOV.UK.

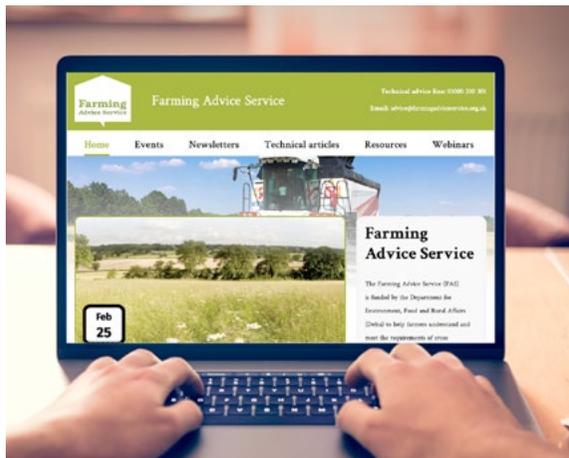
How can we help you?

Free and confidential advice

The Farming Advice Service (FAS) is funded by the Defra. We provide **free, confidential** advice to help farmers in England understand and meet the requirements of cross compliance. These requirements apply to you if you are a Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship claimant.

We update 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. Our newsletter also provides articles on topics that are complementary to cross compliance, such as practices to benefit the wider environment and wellbeing support.

[Our website](#) hosts our previous newsletters, technical articles and webinars that cover topics in more detail.



Getting in contact with the advice line

Farmers requiring telephone advice can contact the **Rural Services Helpline** on 03000 200 301, Monday to Friday, between **08:30** and **17:00**. The Rural Services Helpline provides a single number for all **FAS, Rural Payments Agency, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Natural England** and **forestry** enquiries.

You can also email enquiries to advice@farmingadvice.org.uk. Our helpline team aims to respond to all telephone and email enquiries within one working day.

The advice given to individual farmers is **confidential**; we do not disclose any personal or individual information, or data obtained during advisory activities.

Have your say on our services

We would like to hear your views on the services we provide and would be grateful if you could spare a few moments **to complete this survey**.

Your individual responses will be **anonymous** and will not be shared. The findings from the survey will be used to assess the quality of the service and ensure it is meeting your needs.

Farming Advice Service

Watch our webinar recordings and listen to our podcasts

In case you missed our webinar sessions in January and February, you can watch the recordings by clicking on the links below:

- [Cross compliance update for 2022](#)
- [Future support schemes](#)
- [Steps to reduce ammonia emissions on farms](#)
- [Livestock movements and identification](#)

We have also recorded podcasts where we interviewed expert speakers on a range of topics and you can listen to these by clicking on the links below:

- [Cross compliance with Andrew Wells](#)
- [Supporting farmers through resilience with Suzy Deeley](#)
- [Reducing ammonia emissions on farms with John Morgan](#)
- [Livestock movements and identification with Ian Cairns](#)

Sustainable Farming Incentive – standards, payment rates and when you can apply

Defra will be launching the [Sustainable Farming Incentive \(SFI\)](#) in June. It is the first of three new environmental schemes being introduced under the [Agricultural Transition Plan](#). The other two are [Local Nature Recovery](#) and [Landscape Recovery](#). This article summarises the standards, payment rates and eligibility.

SFI aims to help farmers manage land in a way that improves food production and is more environmentally sustainable. For example, by improving water quality, biodiversity, animal health and welfare and helping with climate change mitigation.

In 2022, SFI aims to:

- encourage actions to improve soil health.
- recognise how moorland provides benefits to the public.
- improve animal health and welfare by helping farmers with the costs of veterinary advice for livestock.

You'll be eligible to apply for an SFI standards agreement if you're a farmer who is eligible for BPS, with land in England. Read more information about [eligibility for SFI](#).

How to apply and payments

When the Sustainable Farming Incentive launches in June, farmers will be able to apply via the [Rural Payments service](#). There will be no application deadline, so farmers can apply when it makes sense for them and their business. If it's necessary to close applications, a date will be published giving six weeks' notice.

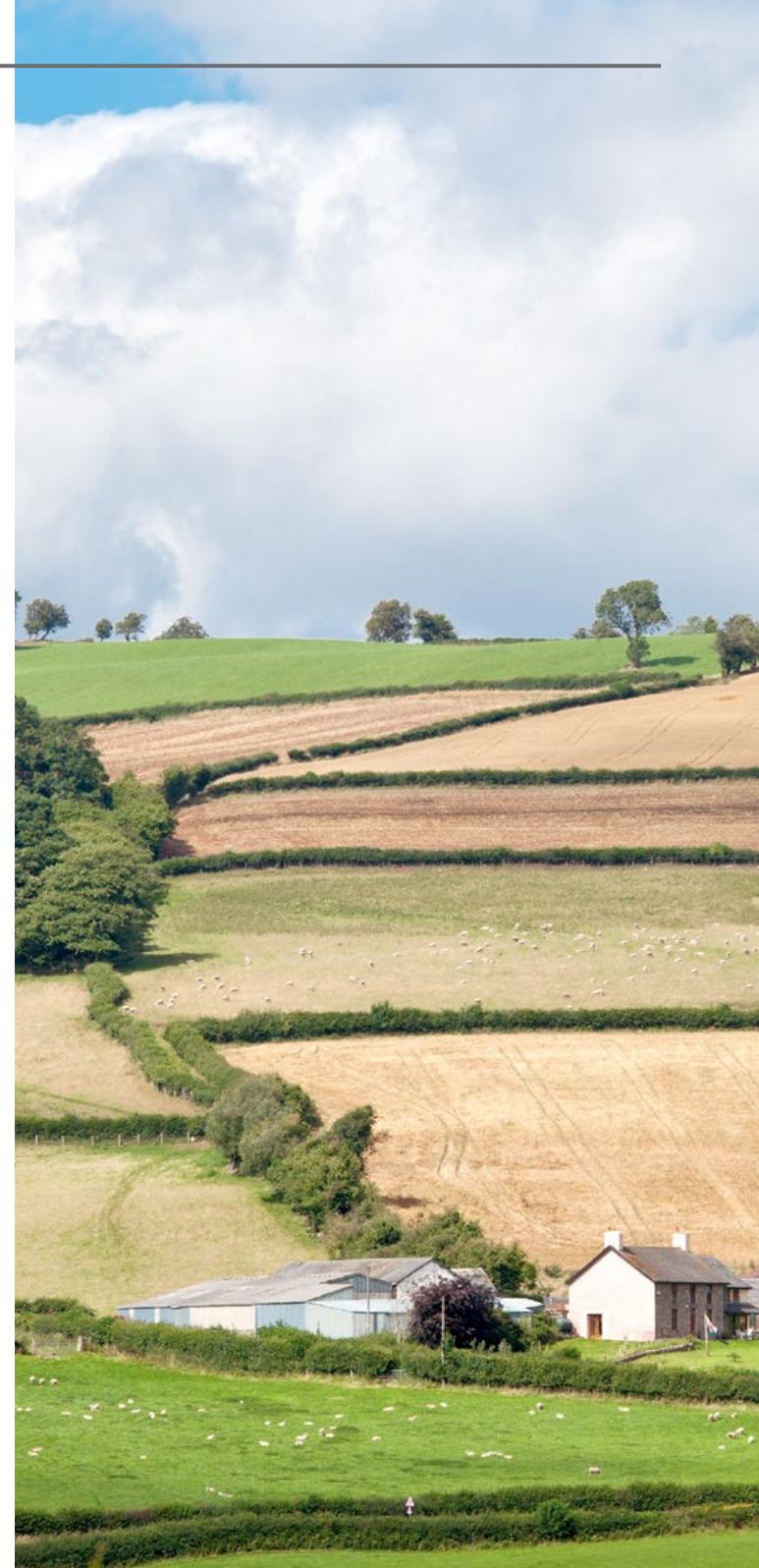
Read about [what you can do now to prepare to apply for SFI](#). You can choose which eligible land parcels to enter into an SFI standards agreement. It does not have to be the whole of your farm.

Agreements will last for three years and payments will be made on a quarterly basis, the first one three months after the agreement starts.

More information about the application process will be published on Defra's Future Farming blog, so make sure you [subscribe to the blog to be alerted when the scheme opens](#).

Defra is also providing funding for a vet visit, through the [Annual Health and Welfare Review](#). You'll be able to apply for this later in the year.

In the future, more standards will be introduced into SFI. You'll be able to add these to your agreement, as well as increase levels and add land. Defra have published a [roadmap](#) so you can see when they will add more standards and levels in the coming years.



Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) 2022 applications

You can apply for BPS 2022 until midnight on Monday 16 May. This includes young and new farmer applications. You are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to give you enough time. You can submit an application until midnight on Friday 10 June, but penalties will apply for any submitted after 16 May.



The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) published the [BPS rules for 2022 on 15 March on GOV.UK](#), where you will find information on what you need to complete your application.

Here are some top tips from the RPA to make the BPS application process as smooth as possible:

- 1 Check all personal details in the [Rural Payments service](#) to ensure they are correct and up to date.
- 2 Make sure that you check your land and the entitlements that are held against the business claiming BPS are correct, paying particular attention to any previously leased to ensure they are in the right control for 2022.
- 3 If you apply online, check the 'Activate less BPS area' screens to make sure that any changes to activated areas have been captured.
- 4 Remember to post supporting documents (or email where allowed) to arrive at RPA in good time (SBI on every page), having also retained a copy of what is sent:
 - Continuation sheets/hemp labels.
 - Young Farmer Payment.
 - Any paper RLE1 form and supporting maps.
- 5 And, most importantly, apply for BPS 2022 as soon as possible. This gives you and the RPA more time to deal with any problems or issues that may arise and will ultimately avoid any subsequent difficulties with payments.

The [Rural Payments Agency blog](#) includes news and updates on the Rural Payments system, and on rural grants and payments, including the Basic Payment Scheme and Rural Development Programme schemes. You can [subscribe to the RPA blog here](#).

The RPA has also recently launched the first in a [new podcast](#) series that will offer support and guidance to farmers, landowners and rural communities navigating agricultural transition. Listen on [Apple](#) and [Spotify](#) or through [Buzzsprout](#). If you would like RPA to cover a particular topic with its subject experts, email external.affairs@rpa.gov.uk.

Farm woodlands – get paid for planting trees on your land

Planting the right trees in the right places, coupled with financial support and expert advice, can bring far-reaching benefits to your farm business – while complementing food production. Woodland can provide an alternative source of income, diversifying your business and making the most of marginal or unproductive land, without taking good agricultural land out of use.

Funding opportunities

Forestry Commission

The England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) grant supports new, diverse woodland creation **in areas over one hectare**, which can be made up of blocks as small as 0.1 hectare, allowing you the flexibility to create woodland that works for your business. EWCO offers **up to £8,500 per hectare** to cover the capital costs of creating woodland. Plus, if the woodland provides environmental and social public benefits you could qualify for **additional payments of up to £8,000 per hectare**.

Applications are open year-round. Farmers and land managers who create woodland now will not be unfairly disadvantaged when the new environmental land management schemes open in the future as they will be able to transfer penalty-free into an environmental land management scheme at agreed points.

For proposed woodlands of more than five hectares, there is also a [Woodland Creation Planning Grant](#) to support with the design of a UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) compliant woodland.

England's Community Forests' Trees for Climate Fund

Expert support and up to 100% flexible and bespoke grant funding for up to 15 years. Open to all landowners within any Community Forest area.

The National Forest

Generous grants and support for tree planting, forest creation and habitat management in the Midlands, available to landowners within the 200 square miles of the National Forest.

Northern Forest

A partnership between the Woodland Trust, Mersey Forest, Manchester City of Trees, White Rose Forest and Humber Forest. You can secure up to 100% of the capital costs of woodland creation and a generous maintenance budget.

Woodland Trust

Offers three national grants: MOREwoods and MOREhedged, covering up to 75% of planting costs for a range of woodland creation, starting from 1.25 acres or 100 metres of new hedging; and Trees for Your Farm, funding up to 100% of costs for bespoke agroforestry schemes.

Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)

The UK's voluntary carbon standard provides a way to measure the amount of carbon dioxide your woodland stores. Schemes need to be registered with the WCC to be able to sell carbon credits (one tonne of absorbed carbon). The [Woodland Carbon Guarantee](#) provides the option to sell your captured carbon dioxide to the Government for a guaranteed, index-linked price every five or 10 years up to 2055/56. This offers an additional long-term income from your woodland. If you prefer, you can choose to sell the credits on the open market rather than to the Government.

What next?

For further information on the benefits that woodlands can provide and the grants and support available, visit www.gov.uk/woodland-creation – or contact your local [Woodland Creation Officer](#) for help to find the most appropriate funding for your project.

The benefits for your farm

In [the last newsletter](#), we outlined some of the main benefits of woodland creation for your farm. These include generating income, protecting livestock and managing soil and nutrient losses.



Provide your views on practices to reduce ammonia emissions

Ammonia emissions in agriculture are mostly linked to producing, storing and spreading manures and slurries. Farm practices to limit the loss of ammonia to the air can benefit farm performance (by retaining useful nutrients), the environment and public health. Changes can be made to livestock diet or to the ways manures/slurries are stored and spread. If you are a farmer, land manager or contractor who uses slurry or manure, [we invite you to take part in this survey](#) to provide your views on some of these practices.

The survey asks questions about the costs involved, benefits, and barriers to adopting practices that reduce ammonia emissions. The findings will support wider research being undertaken by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Public Health Research (PHR) programme, researching the impacts of ammonia on human health and the environment.

The survey is anonymous, and you are not required to provide any identifying information unless you choose to do so. It is being delivered by Ricardo Energy and Environment – if you have any questions, please contact Aim-Health@ricardo.com.

For more information on ammonia emissions, please see the following resources from FAS:

- A webinar recording on [steps to reduce ammonia emissions on farms](#) that covers an overview of ammonia emissions in agriculture, and some of the steps that can be taken to reduce it.
- If you would prefer something to read, there is an [article on reducing agriculture emissions of ammonia](#) on our website. This covers similar information to the webinar.
- We also have a podcast covering ammonia in agriculture, which is available [on our website, or on Spotify](#).

Updates from the Future Farming blog and industry announcements

Defra regularly adds updates to the [Future Farming blog](#). Please [subscribe to the blog](#) to ensure you see all the latest news.

- Guidance on the [lump sum exit scheme was published](#) on 12 April. Farmers will be able to apply to up to 30 September 2022, having until 31 May 2024 to transfer out of their agricultural land where required. This scheme provides support to farmers in England who wish to leave the industry in a managed way through the Lump Sum Exit Scheme. In return, farmers will be expected to either rent or sell their land or surrender their tenancy to create opportunities for new entrants and farmers wishing to expand their businesses.
- Defra has announced support for farmers ahead of growing season to help with the availability of fertilisers, address uncertainty amongst growers and keep costs down. [Read more information on GOV.UK](#). Further advice for farmers on managing the impact of the Ukraine conflict, including the use of fertilisers, has been published by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). [For more information, visit the AHDB website.](#)
- The Forestry Commission will open a new Tree Production Capital Grant (TPCG) this spring. The TPCG will provide funding to increase the domestic production of tree seed and saplings, supporting investments in expansion, automation and mechanisation of facilities and equipment. To receive the latest news on the grant, [sign up to the Forestry Commission's e-alert](#). For more information, contact tpcg@forestrycommission.gov.uk or [read the Forestry Commission's latest blog](#).
- On 1 February, Defra opened applications for the first round of Landscape Recovery projects. This is an opportunity for farmers and land managers who want to focus on the most radical and large-scale approach to producing environmental and climate goods on their land. Applications for the first round of the scheme will close on 24 May 2022. [Read more information on GOV.UK](#).
- Defra has published more details on the initial priorities for the [Animal Health and Welfare Pathway](#).
- Defra also [has a YouTube channel](#), where recently uploaded videos include case studies from farmers who have been involved in Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) trials and an introduction to the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway.
- Defra has recently published guidance on the funding available for farmers, for Environmental Land Management, trees, animal health, slurry and protected landscapes. [The guidance has some information with links to further information.](#)

Sign up to FAS services



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



Subscribe to our free monthly Newsletter

If you don't already receive our monthly FAS newsletter, please visit farmingadvice.service.org.uk and enter your email address into the newsletter sign up box.

Alternatively, please email bookings@farmingadvice.service.org.uk with **'Register for newsletter'** in the subject line.

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.service.org.uk/events/privacy/