



**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](mailto:advice@farmingadvice.org.uk)

[farmingadvice.org.uk](http://farmingadvice.org.uk)



The FAS invites you to attend a free online virtual event: *'Planning for change - how to navigate farming support schemes in 2023'*.

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## June 2022 - Issue 76

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### Key dates to be aware of

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Watch our webinar recordings and listen to our podcasts

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Remember: the June survey of agriculture and horticulture for England is open

The FAS invites you to attend a free online virtual event: 'Planning for change - how to navigate farming support schemes in 2023'

Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) in agriculture

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

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Stay up to date with us

## Key dates to be aware of

<b>29 July</b>	This is the deadline for Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier and Wildlife Offers starting on 1 January 2023. ( <a href="#">GOV.UK</a> )
<b>1 August</b>	If you have been granted a derogation by the Rural Payments Agency (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. ( <a href="#">GAEC* 7a</a> )
<b>1 August</b>	For any land located 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). ( <a href="#">SMR** 1</a> )

## In case you missed them...

<b>1 May</b>	You must not have carried out hedge or tree coppicing or hedge laying from this date. ( <a href="#">GAEC 7a</a> and <a href="#">GAEC 7c</a> )
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\* GAEC = Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition

\*\* SMR = Statutory Management Requirement

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

# How can we help you?

## Free and confidential advice

The FAS is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). We provide **free, confidential** advice to help farmers in England understand and meet the cross compliance requirements. These requirements apply to you if you are a Basic Payment Scheme, Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship claimant.

We update the farming sector on relevant government farming policy that is applicable in England, and on the actions that can be taken to help farmers comply with applicable 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.

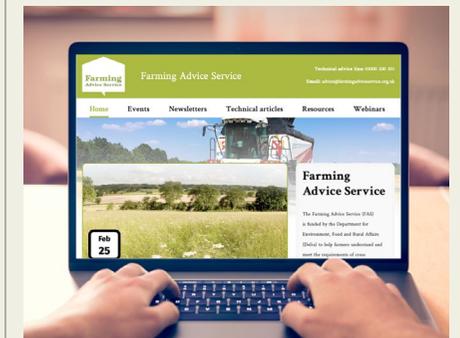
[Our website](#) hosts our previous newsletters, as well as technical articles and webinars that cover various topics in more detail.

## Contacting the advice line

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

You can also email enquiries to [advice@farmingadvice.org.uk](mailto: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.



## Need extra support?

We understand it can be difficult to keep up with all the changes affecting the farming industry at the moment, and that the amount of information available can be daunting. The [FAS](#) is here to help and you can also find the most up-to-date information on grants and payments at [GOV.UK](#).

If you are feeling overwhelmed and are not sure where to turn, the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution ([RABI](#)) and the Farming Community Network ([FCN](#)) offer support services by email and phone. A range of other organisations also offer complementary forms of support for the farming community; [click here](#) to view support organisations by topic.

The FCN receives between 100 and 150 calls from farmers each month and they have now produced an article highlighting the learnings from these calls. For information on their top 10 observations from these calls please [click here](#).

## Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier 2022 advice

Through the Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier 2022 advice programme, you can book to attend a free 90-minute online clinic session for your area to help you consider the options that are suitable for your holding. Booking is essential as places will be limited. Find out more [here](#).



## Watch our webinar recordings and listen to our podcasts

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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 interviewed expert speakers on a range of topics. You can listen to these podcasts on Audioboom or Spotify 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](#)

## Technical articles available on the FAS website

The FAS has produced a number of technical articles, covering a range of topics, from farming practices to cross compliance. To access these articles please click on the links below:

- [Reducing agricultural emissions of ammonia](#)
- [Supporting farmers to become resilient](#)
- [Net zero in agriculture](#)
- [Cross compliance inspections – common breaches and guidance](#)

# Remember: the June survey of agriculture and horticulture for England is open

Below we provide information on the 2022 agricultural census that opened at the start of June, with links to guidance notes and the website where you can complete the census.

The agricultural census is run every 10 years and all active, commercial farms in England are asked to complete it. The collection of the information is important and is mandatory under the [Agricultural Statistics Act 1979](#). The 2022 census is gathering information on land use, crop areas, livestock numbers and farm labour. Defra needs this information to agree industry priorities, to make the right decisions on investment, and to 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 as a whole.

If you have an active, commercial holding, you should have received an email or letter giving information on how to complete the census. If you have not received any correspondence and you believe you should have, or if you would like some help in completing the census, please contact Defra on 03000 600 140 or email [surveys@defra.gov.uk](mailto: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 available at GOV.UK: [here](#).

## The FAS invites you to attend a free online virtual event: 'Planning for change – how to navigate farming support schemes in 2023'

The event will run for 90 minutes and there will be an opportunity to put questions to our expert speaker. If you are not able to make the live broadcast, a recording will be available on the FAS website. Booking is essential. To reserve your place, please click on the relevant link and complete the booking form. BASIS-CPD points will be available to claim for attending this event. After you have booked your place, you will receive an email with joining instructions. If this does not come through, please check your spam or junk folder.

### Planning for change – how to navigate farming support schemes in 2023

Join the FAS and Richard King, Partner and Head of Business Research at The Anderson Centre, to explore the options available to farm businesses in 2023, considering decision-making rationale. Using a case study farm scenario, we will talk through the thought processes and decisions that a business would have to take and provide professional recommendations of the best options for the specific business example.



**Tuesday 12 July 19:00–20:30**

(Please click [here](#) to register for the event)

# Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) in agriculture

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

The EIA regulations protect rural land in England that is uncultivated or semi-natural from changes in agricultural activities that might cause damage by increasing productivity and/or physically changing field boundaries. This includes preventing ploughing, cultivating or intensification so as to protect and maintain levels of organic matter and carbon in soils.

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 disrupts the subsoil) or chemical means (e.g. adding fertiliser or soil improvers).

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

## When to get permission to change the use of rural land

Natural England must decide if your proposal to change the use of uncultivated or semi-natural 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 in several ways, including:

- increasing the productivity of land for agriculture;
- restoring semi-natural grassland or semi-natural heathland;
- altering field boundaries.

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

You can access an Environmental Screening Report template compiled by Natural England at [GOV.UK](#). This will guide you through your EIA screening decision application and ensure that you have included the appropriate information. Natural England also provides a checklist that can be used to ensure that all the required information has been provided. This is on the last page of the [Application for an Environmental Impact Assessment \(EIA\) Screening Decision form](#).

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the EIA team at Natural England on 0800 028 2140 or [cia.England@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:cia.England@naturalengland.org.uk).



# The 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 to tackle diffuse water pollution from agriculture. All farmers in England must comply with the rules. There are eight rules; this section of the newsletter covers Rule 7 – protection against soil erosion by livestock.*

**Rule 7:** Any land within five 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 two metres wide and 20 metres long.

#### **Examples for how to prevent soil erosion by livestock 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](#).

The FAS has produced a suite of resources to help you understand the Farming Rules for Water, including a [technical article](#), as well as a [webinar recording and a Q&A document](#). All the FAS resources are free to access. If you require further support, please contact the FAS helpline 03000 200 301 or email [advice@farmingadvice.org.uk](mailto:advice@farmingadvice.org.uk).



# Updates from the Future Farming blog and industry announcements

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

- The Government has committed to maintaining the farming budget for England at £2.4 billion per year throughout this Parliament. It will be gradually reducing spending on Basic Payments each year over the next six years. Instead, the Government will make this money available to farmers through one-off grants for capital investment in equipment and technology, and ongoing payments for environmental actions and related advice and support. Farmers will be able to be paid for a combination of actions that they choose to conduct, to suit their farm business, food production and the environment. [This blog post on basic payments](#) provides further information.
- The Government published its [Food Strategy](#) on 13 June. It outlines our plans to drive innovation and harness pioneering technology in farming, helping to increase domestic production, spread jobs and grow the economy. It sets out the importance of maintaining and boosting our food security, including plans to strengthen the resilience of our supply chains and boost domestic production.
- At the Royal Cornwall Show, the Secretary of State announced the [opening of applications for a £30 million 'Adding Value fund'](#). It will enable farmers in England to purchase equipment to process, diversify and add value to their products after they have been harvested or reared. The funding will be offered in sums between £25,000 and £300,000. For more information read the [farming investment fund grants blog post](#).
- The first round of the new [Slurry Infrastructure grants](#), worth £13 million, will open this autumn. These new grants will help livestock farmers in England to upgrade their slurry storage and nutrient management systems and, in so doing, help reduce water and air pollution from slurry. You can read the [guidance for applicants](#) and find more details on our [farming investment fund blog post](#).

# Updates from the Future Farming blog and industry announcements

- An additional £2.5 million will be put towards the Feasibility Projects competition within the [Farming Innovation Programme](#). This competition is funding over 20 projects covering a range of issues, from developing sustainable low-impact fertiliser by recycling agricultural waste residues to proposals to detect early lameness in cattle. [Read the announcement](#) by UK Research and Innovation, Defra's delivery partner for the programme.
- [Read our new entrants blog](#) to find out about how Defra will support people to get started in the farming industry.
- Local Nature Recovery is the improved and more ambitious successor to the Countryside Stewardship scheme in England. [In this post](#), Defra provides further details on what Local Nature Recovery will pay for and explains how Defra will be working with farmers and landowners over the course of the year to develop the detailed scheme design.
- Defra has updated the guidance for registering as a user of professional plant protection products (PPPs). Please find this guidance [here](#). You need to register if you:
  - use professional PPPs and any adjuvants as part of your work;
  - have professional PPPs and any adjuvants applied by a third party as part of your work in agriculture, horticulture, amenities or forestry.
- Defra has also produced a [video on how to complete](#) the Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations registration form.
- The [Forestry Commission also has a blog page on GOV.UK](#) where it posts information and advice about trees and woodlands. [Sign up to the Forestry Commission's e-alerts](#) to stay up to date.
- Look out for an extra FAS announcement regarding the [Sustainable Farming Incentive \(SFI\)](#) application window, which should be opening at the beginning of July.
- Defra recently updated its '[Farming is Changing](#)' leaflet, which provides information on farming policies and schemes.
- 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 practices to reduce ammonia emissions. The survey asks questions about the costs involved in, and the benefits from and barriers to, adopting practices that reduce ammonia emissions. The survey findings will support wider research being undertaken by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Public Health Research (PHR) programme on 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. The survey is being delivered by Ricardo Energy and Environment. If you have any questions, please contact [Aim-Health@ricardo.com](mailto:Aim-Health@ricardo.com).

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### Subscribe to our free monthly newsletter

If you don't already receive our monthly FAS newsletter, please visit [farmingadvice.service.org.uk](https://farmingadvice.service.org.uk) and enter your email address into the newsletter sign-up box.

Alternatively, please email [bookings@farmingadvice.service.org.uk](mailto: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/](https://www.farmingadvice.service.org.uk/events/privacy/).