

**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

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Key dates to be aware of

1 September	You can cut or trim hedges and trees from this date. (GAEC* 7a and GAEC 7c)
1 September	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 grassland on shallow or sandy soils. (SMR** 1)
1 September	For any land located in an NVZ, this is the start of the closed period for applying manufactured nitrogen fertilisers to tillage land. (SMR 1)
15 September	For any land located in an NVZ, this is the start of the closed period for applying manufactured nitrogen fertilisers to grassland. (SMR 1)
16 September	For any land located in an 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 that have been sown with crops on or before 15 September. (SMR 1)
30 September	This is the deadline for Lump Sum Exit Scheme applications. (GOV.UK)

In case you missed them...

1 August	If you have been granted a derogation by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), you may have been 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 located in an NVZ, this was 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 would be sown on or before 15 September. (SMR1)

* 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 [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.

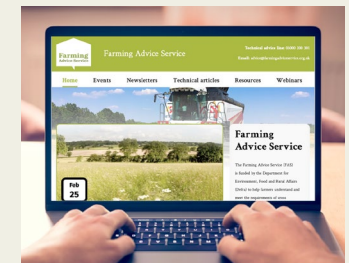
[Our website](#) hosts our previous newsletters, as well as technical articles and webinars that cover various topics in more detail.

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. 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.



FAS launches online training portal

Pre-registration now open for the new [FAS Training Portal](#).

Register your interest for the modules on cross compliance and net zero emissions in agriculture to receive an email invitation when they open in September. Registrants qualify for two BASIS CPD points for completing the end-of-module quiz. Modules on the Farming Rules for Water and NVZs will also open soon, with additional modules to follow later in the year.



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](#).

Watch our webinar recordings and listen to our podcasts

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If you missed any of our previous webinar sessions from earlier in the year, 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](#)
- [Planning for change – how to navigate farming support schemes in 2023](#)

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](#)

Navigating farming support schemes in 2023

Following the success of the FAS webinar '[Planning for change](#)' in July, read our new [Technical Article](#) from webinar presenter Richard King (Partner and Head of Business Research at The Anderson Centre) on how to navigate the changes to farming support schemes in 2023.

Includes: BPS delinked payments, the Lump Sum Exit Scheme, Countryside Stewardship, the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery Future and more.

Boost for farming innovation

From the end of this month (August 2022) £16.5 million will be available through two new Defra research and development competitions.

Farmers, growers, foresters, businesses and researchers can apply for:

- a share of £5.5 million to fund [feasibility projects](#)
- a share of £11 million to fund [small research & development partnership projects](#)

This funding is part of the £270 million [Farming Innovation Programme](#). It's the second round for both competitions.

The Farming Innovation Programme supports England's farmers and growers to collaborate on the research and development of innovative methods and technologies. There is no set theme for these competitions, as Defra does not want to create barriers to innovation. However, all projects must focus on improving the productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience of England's agricultural, horticultural and forestry sectors.

The programme is run in partnership with UK Research and Innovation, building upon their successful Transforming Food Production challenge. You can read further detail on the funding opportunities available in this [recent blog post](#).



Water Resources annual charge billing

On 1 April 2022, the Environment Agency launched the new [Environment Agency \(Environmental Permitting Regulations and Abstraction Licencing\) \(England\) Charging Scheme 2022](#). The Environment Agency is working hard to develop the necessary IT systems and prepare the data that will enable annual billing to take place, ensuring a smooth transition into the new scheme. Due to this ongoing work, billing is planned from mid-September, with customers due to receive their bills throughout the autumn.

The Environment Agency is sorry for the delay and recognises that receiving the bill later than expected may cause some inconvenience. In the meantime, however, customers can continue to use the online [Water Resources charge indicator tool](#) to calculate their charges. The supporting [Water Resources charging guidance](#) is also available on GOV.UK.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the new charges, please contact SROc.WR@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Support for farmers on dry weather impacts

This month Defra, the Environment Agency and the RPA set out more support for farmers to help them deal with the impacts of some of the driest weather for decades.

The measures mean that they will have the option to relax rules in their agri-environment scheme agreements, to make it easier to provide vital food for livestock. The changes came into effect from 17 August and will last until the end of 2022. They will allow agreement holders in the Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship schemes to take steps such as cutting or grazing additional areas of land to help ease shortages of bedding, fodder, grazing or forage crops.

[A full list of these easements](#) has been published by the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) and includes steps, such as allowing 'buffer strips' and field corners to be cut early. [Guidance for farmers](#) in hot and dry weather has also been made available to inform farmers how to record the adjustments they have made.

Through its agriculture monitoring groups and working closely with industry organisations, Defra is continuing to assess the impacts from dry weather and is considering what further steps can be taken in the coming weeks.

Water abstraction reminders

The Environment Agency is working with farming organisations including the [NFU](#) to help farmers experiencing prolonged dry weather abstraction problems. For more information, please read the [July 2022 FAS newsletter](#). The Environment Agency has produced a blog on [taking action during prolonged dry weather](#) and is producing a [blog specifically on helping farmers](#).



The Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)

The [Woodland Carbon Code](#) (WCC) is designed to support farm businesses in woodland creation and protecting existing woodland, to improve carbon capture rates.



Financial support and expert advice are now available to help develop and support woodland creation goals as part of farm businesses.

Growing a woodland offers a potential additional income stream from selling carbon units from projects registered with the WCC or, with increasing demand for net zero supply chains, by helping compensate your business against your UK-based emissions.

How much income can be generated from selling carbon units?

Projects can produce anywhere from 100 units/ha to 500+ units/ha over 50 years, which can generate £1,000/ha to £15,000+/ha through the sale of carbon units via the WCC over the same time period. (Please note that there are likely to be costs associated with using a project developer to manage your woodland

project, as well as costs associated with validating the project and verifying carbon units.)

The WCC

The WCC generates independently verified carbon units, backed by the government and experts within forestry and the carbon market. The WCC is the quality assurance standard for UK-based woodland creation projects aiming to create carbon compensations and is internationally recognised for its high values for sustainable forestry and carbon management.

It's important to note that the WCC is not a grant and allows woodland creation projects to benefit from blended finance models, which can help pay for the associated costs of tree planting – provided the carbon income is needed to make the project viable.

You must register your woodland creation project with the WCC before planting trees. This is essential to avoid missing out on future income, and not all new woodlands will be eligible. WCC projects are assessed and verified to ensure compliance with finance rules, the UK Forestry Standard and woodland management plans. For more information, please visit the [‘Landowners – Apply’ section of the WCC website](#). More information on the WCC can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

The Forestry Commission's grant, the **England Woodland Creation Offer**, now supports new woodland creation by covering standard capital costs up to £8,500/ha, providing annual maintenance costs of £300/ha for 10 years, with additional contributions available up to £8,000/ha when delivering wider benefits to society, nature recovery and the environment. Applicants can also retain BPS payments and receive a contribution towards the costs of access infrastructure.

The **England Woodland Creation Offer** will become part of the **Local Nature Recovery scheme** – itself a part of ELMs – from 2025. The tree planting offer within Local Nature Recovery and the approach to payment rates will largely mirror those offered by the England Woodland Creation Offer, allowing for some changes in response to customer feedback. A Farm Woodland Standard is also currently being piloted for the new SFI and is expected to be introduced from 2025.

For information on the grants and support that are available, visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-planting-and-woodland-creation-overview>.



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.

- Remember: the [SFI application window is now open](#) and there is no application deadline. This is the initial rollout of the scheme. It will be expanded over the next three years as Direct Payments are reduced. The full set of standards will be in place by 2025. You can hear everything you need to know about the SFI on Defra's [recent podcast](#).
- The Forestry Commission are aware of the strong cultural links that many people in Britain have with oak, and it is often the first choice of species when considering creating woodland. This coming planting season, the UK is facing the possibility of insufficient supply of oak whips from nurseries to meet demand for our two native species of oak – Pedunculate (*Quercus robur*) and Sessile (*Quercus petraea*). This is due to limited oak seed produced last autumn (2021). As a result, land managers may need to think more creatively about how they approach planting projects this season, assessing the availability of oak and considering the possibility of a more diverse planting scheme. Read the Forestry Commission's [blog](#) to find out more. Please also talk to your Forestry Commission Woodland Creation Officer/ Woodland Officer to receive expert local advice and guidance.
- Defra has launched a [one-month consultation](#) to seek views on the key proposals and actions to include in the final deer management strategy developed with the Forestry Commission. Defra know this is an important strategy and more needs to be done to manage deer. Defra look forward to hearing and considering your thoughts on the key proposals and actions to include in the final strategy. The consultation will close at 23:45 on 2 September 2022 and Defra will issue a response in due course.
- Defra is seeking views on reducing livestock methane production. This month Defra has launched a [UK-wide call for evidence](#) to better understand the views associated with the use of feed products that can reduce methane emissions from livestock. This is a public call for evidence, and it is open to anyone with an interest to provide comments. You have until 23:59 on Tuesday 15 November to submit a response.
- Apply for the Lump Sum Exit Scheme before it's too late: the application window for the Lump Sum Exit Scheme closes on 30 September 2022. This one-off scheme is for farmers in England who wish to retire or leave the industry. Find out if you're eligible for a lump sum payment and how to apply at [GOV.UK](#).
- Is your land in an area that has a [Community Forest or Woodland Creation Partnership](#)? You could be eligible for some recently announced [funding to help plant trees](#).
- Farm animal health and welfare: the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway supports improvements in farm animal health and welfare. The first step on the pathway is the [Annual Health and Welfare Review](#). Starting this autumn, farmers who keep cattle, sheep and pigs can get funding to pay for a vet or vet-led team to visit their farm and carry out a yearly review. Defra are now ready to put more of the pathway to the test, and we need your help.
- 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.
- 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 is being delivered by Ricardo Energy and Environment. If you have any questions, please contact Aim-Health@ricardo.com.

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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/.