SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE
The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) pays farmers for actions that support food production and can help improve farm productivity and resilience, while also protecting and improving the environment.

To get paid under SFI, you can apply for:
- a 3-year SFI agreement to do environmental land management actions – we plan to start accepting applications from August 2023
- a one-off payment for a vet visit annually to review the health and welfare of livestock – you can register your interest to apply now

KEY FEATURES OF SFI AGREEMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT
You will be able to:
- apply for the scheme online yourself, with the simple online service telling you which actions will work on which land parcels
- choose what combination of actions to do so you can make it work for your farm
- choose what area of eligible land to do actions on – there’s no minimum or maximum land area
- combine more SFI actions with CS options, as long as the land is eligible for both, they’re compatible and we’re not paying you twice for the same activity
- choose how to complete the actions as long as they’re done in a way that achieves your aim – so that you can make the actions work for your farm, without lots of prescriptive rules
- be confident that you will be treated fairly and supported if things go wrong - if you have to repay money already paid to you, there won’t be additional financial ‘penalties’ applied

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AN SFI AGREEMENT?
You can apply for a 3-year SFI agreement if:
- you’re a farmer who was eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme on 16 May 2022 or 15 May 2023
- you’ve got eligible land in England for the SFI actions you choose
- you’ll have management control of the land for the 3-year SFI agreement

TENANTS AND SFI
The person who’s actively farming the land will typically have management control of that land. This will usually be the owner occupier or tenant. If you occupy land on a rolling year-by-year tenancy, you can enter this land into SFI if you expect to have control of it for the full 3 years. If, as a tenant, you unexpectedly lose management control, you can leave the agreement without penalty.

SFI AND OTHER SCHEMES
It’s possible to include the same land in SFI and another scheme (e.g. Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Stewardship) if:
- you and your land are eligible for each scheme
- the activities or outcomes you’re being paid for under each scheme are compatible
- you’re not being paid for a similar activity or outcome on the same area of land at the same time

To find out which environmental land management actions and options you can do on the same area within a land parcel as each SFI action, read the details of the SFI actions in the SFI Handbook. Search GOV.UK for ‘SFI handbook’.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE
WHAT CAN I APPLY FOR?
We’ve designed the actions in the SFI 2023 offer to be more flexible, so that you can choose:
- what combination of standalone ‘pick and mix’ actions you want to do
- which area of land to do each action on

Some of the actions are rotational, so that you can move them around your farm to work with your farm system.

You can also vary the coverage of rotational actions to make them work with your crop rotation and different sizes of land parcels.

The SFI actions that will be available in the SFI 2023 offer are summarised on the reverse side of this leaflet.

SFI MANAGEMENT PAYMENT
In 2023, we’re introducing an additional ‘SFI management payment’ to help farmers with the management time and administrative costs of entering into and managing an SFI agreement. This is an annual payment of £20 per hectare, up to the first 50 hectares entered into an SFI agreement. The maximum payment will be £1,000 per year for each farm business (SBI).

ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR COMMON LAND
If a group of 2 or more people apply for an SFI agreement on common land, there’s an additional payment of £6.15 per hectare to help with costs of administering the agreement on common land.

HOW TO APPLY FOR AN SFI AGREEMENT
You’ll apply for an SFI agreement online via the Rural Payments service. We plan to start taking applications from August 2023. We’ll roll out the SFI application service in a controlled way, so that we can make sure we’re able to offer everyone the right level of service and support.

During this initial controlled rollout phase, there will be different ways to apply. When you sign in to the Rural Payments service, you’ll either be able to apply online, or you’ll be asked to contact RPA so that we can support you with the next steps of your application.

Register your interest for an annual health and welfare review of livestock
If you are a BPS-eligible farmer who keeps cattle, sheep or pigs, you can get a one-off payment to help with the costs of a vet’s annual health and welfare review of your livestock. Register your interest now – you don’t need to wait for SFI applications to open.

This review includes a vet of your choice visiting your farm to:
- carry out the relevant endemic disease or condition testing of the livestock type you choose to have reviewed
- advise on the health and welfare of these livestock – including issues such as lameness, body conditioning or mobility scoring

To register your interest for a vet visit search for ‘annual health and welfare review’ on GOV.UK.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT SFI AND OTHER FUNDING
You can find out more about SFI on GOV.UK by searching for ‘SFI handbook’.

As well as SFI, farmers can apply for a range of other payments to help improve farm productivity and the environment. Search ‘Funding for farmers’ on GOV.UK to find out what payments are available.
### SFI actions for soils
- **SAM1** - Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a soil management plan  
  Annual payment: £129 per hectare
- **SAM2** - Multi-species winter cover crops  
  Annual payment: £382 per hectare
- **SAM3** - Herbal leys
  Annual payment: £5.80 per hectare and an additional payment of £95 per agreement

### SFI actions for nutrient management
- **NUM1** - Assess nutrient management and produce a review report (agreement level SFI action)  
  Annual payment: £102 per hectare
- **NUM2** - Legumes on improved grassland  
  Annual payment: £593 per hectare
- **NUM3** - Legume fallow

### SFI actions for farmland wildlife on improved grassland
- **IGL1** - Take improved grassland field corners or blocks out of management  
  Annual payment: £333 per hectare
- **IGL2** - Winter bird food on improved grassland  
  Annual payment: £474 per hectare

### SFI actions for low input grassland
- **LIG1** - Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (outside SDAs)  
  Annual payment: £151 per hectare
- **LIG2** - Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (SDAs)  
  Annual payment: £151 per hectare

### SFI actions for integrated pest management
- **IPM1** - Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan (this action applies to an SFI agreement, rather than a specific area of land (an ‘agreement level SFI action’))  
  Annual payment: £989
- **IPM2** - Flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips  
  Annual payment: £673 per hectare
- **IPM3** - Companion crop on arable and horticultural land  
  Annual payment: £45 per hectare
- **IPM4** - No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops  
  Annual payment: £55 per hectare

### SFI actions for farmland wildlife on arable and horticultural land
- **AHL1** - Pollen and nectar flower mix  
  Annual payment: £732 per hectare
- **AHL2** - Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land  
  Annual payment: £590 per hectare
- **AHL3** - Grassy field corners and blocks  
  Annual payment: £235 per hectare

### SFI actions for buffer strips
- **AHL4** - 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on arable and horticultural land  
  Annual payment: £451 per hectare
- **IGL3** - 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on improved grassland  
  Annual payment: £235 per hectare

### SFI actions for hedgerows
- **HRW1** - Assess and record hedgerow condition  
  Annual payment: £3 per 100 metres – one side
- **HRW2** - Manage hedgerows  
  Annual payment: £10 per 100 metres – both sides
- **HRW3** - Maintain or establish hedgerow trees

### SFI actions for moorland
- **MOR1** - Assess moorland and produce a written record  
  Annual payment: £10.30 per hectare and an additional payment of £265 per agreement

### SFI actions for farmland wildlife on improved grassland
- **IGL1** - Take improved grassland field corners or blocks out of management  
  Annual payment: £333 per hectare

### SFI actions for soils
- **SAM1** - Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a soil management plan  
  Annual payment: £129 per hectare
- **SAM2** - Multi-species winter cover crops  
  Annual payment: £382 per hectare
- **SAM3** - Herbal leys
  Annual payment: £5.80 per hectare and an additional payment of £95 per agreement

### SFI actions for nutrient management
- **NUM1** - Assess nutrient management and produce a review report (agreement level SFI action)  
  Annual payment: £102 per hectare
- **NUM2** - Legumes on improved grassland  
  Annual payment: £593 per hectare
- **NUM3** - Legume fallow

### SFI actions for farmland wildlife on improved grassland
- **IGL1** - Take improved grassland field corners or blocks out of management  
  Annual payment: £333 per hectare

### SFI actions for low input grassland
- **LIG1** - Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (outside SDAs)  
  Annual payment: £151 per hectare
- **LIG2** - Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (SDAs)  
  Annual payment: £151 per hectare

### CONTACT US
If you have any questions about SFI, email us at ruralpayments@defra.gov.uk or telephone 03000 200 301 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm, except bank holidays).