

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) is a broad offer that should be accessible to most farms. The scheme is designed to run alongside commercial farming operations. From summer 2024 there is an expanded SFI 2024 'offer'. In total there will be 102 actions available. This will include the existing 23 actions available under the SFI 2023, over 20 brand new actions, and more than 50 actions that were previously available

under Countryside Stewardship (CS) Mid Tier. All the actions are merged into one scheme and will be available through a single application. Over 90 actions will be for 3-years with payments made quarterly in arrears. The expanded offer will be open to those who have not previously claimed the BPS for the first time.

Below is a summary of the actions available.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT (ELM)

The SFI is part of ELM, which is replacing the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). ELM has three components;

- The **Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)** - the 'entry-level' component of ELM, intended to be a scheme that is relatively easy to get into.
- **Countryside Stewardship (CS)** - this requires more intensive management than the SFI. Payment is made for actions that support nature recovery and deliver local environmental outcomes. Collaboration between farmers will be supported. *This component will be made up of the previous CS Higher Tier. CS Mid Tier will not be open for*

new applications as it has been subsumed into the SFI.

- **Landscape Recovery (LR)** scheme - aims to get groups of landowners to work together to deliver landscape and ecosystem recovery, such as large-scale woodland planting, peatland restoration and salt marshes. It is only likely to be relevant to a small number of farms.

A key point about ELM is that the design will be more flexible than was seen under previous CAP schemes. Options can, and will, be amended on a yearly basis. For example, if they are seen as not offering value-for-money. Options, and payment rates, that are currently available may change as the 'offer' to farmers evolves.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE 2024 (as at May 2024)

Code	Payment	Summary of Actions
ACTIONS FOR SOILS		
CSAM1 [Ⓢ]	£97 + £6.00 per Ha	Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a soil management plan
CSAM2	£129 per Ha	Multi-species winter cover crops
CSAM3 [Ⓢ]	£382 per Ha	Herbal leys
SOH1 [Ⓢ]	£73 per Ha	No-till farming
SOH2/3	£163 per Ha	Multi-species spring/summer-sown cover crops
SOH4	£204 per Ha	Winter cover following maize crops

ACTIONS FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

CNUM1	£652 per year	Assess nutrient management and produce a review report
CNUM2	£102 per Ha	Establish and maintain legumes on improved grassland
CNUM3 [Ⓢ]	£593 per Ha	Establish and maintain legume fallow

ACTIONS FOR INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

CIPM1	£1,129 per year	Assess integrated pest management (IPM) and produce an IPM plan
CIPM2 [Ⓢ] [Ⓢ] [Ⓢ]	£798 per Ha	Establish and maintain flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips
CIPM3	£55 per Ha	Establish a companion crop on arable and horticultural land
CIPM4	£45 per Ha	No use of insecticide on arable crops or permanent crops

ACTIONS FOR PRECISION FARMING

PRF1	£27 per Ha	Variable rate application of nutrients on arable, horticultural or improved grassland
PRF2	£43 per Ha	Camera or remote sensor guided herbicide spraying on arable, permanent crops or permanent grassland
PRF3	£101 per Ha	Non-mechanical robotic weeding (e.g laser or electric) on arable and horticultural land
PRF4	£150 per Ha	Mechanical robotic weeding on arable and horticultural land

SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE 2024 (as at May 2024)

Code	Payment	Summary of Actions
ACTIONS FOR FARMLAND WILDLIFE & HABITATS ON ARABLE AND HORTICULTURAL LAND		
CAHL1 ^{①②③}	£739 per Ha	Establish and maintain blocks or strips of pollen and nectar flower mix
CAHL2 ^{①②③}	£853 per Ha	Establish and maintain blocks or strips of winter bird food on arable or horticultural land
CAHL3 ^{①②③}	£590 per Ha	Establish and maintain grassy field corners or blocks
AHW1 ^{①②③}	£747 per Ha	Establish a bumblebird mix as a block or strip
AHW2	£732 per tonne	Supplementary winter bird food
AHW3 ^{②③}	£764 per Ha	Establish an in-field beetle bank
AHW4	£11 per plot	Establish Skylark plots (min. 2 plots per Ha)
AHW5 ^②	£765 per Ha	Establish nesting plots for lapwing
AHW6	£58 per Ha	Basic overwinter stubble
AHW7	£589 per Ha	Enhanced overwinter stubble
AHW8	£596 per Ha	Whole crop spring cereals and overwintered stubbles
AHW9 ^{①②}	£1,072 per Ha	Unharvested cereal headland
AHW10	£354 per Ha	Low input harvested cereal crop
AHW11 ^{①②}	£660 per Ha	Fallow cultivated margins or plots for arable plants
AHW12 ^{②③}	£428 per Ha	Manage woodland edges on arable land

ACTIONS FOR FARMLAND WILDLIFE & HABITATS ON GRASSLAND

CIGL1 ^{①②③}	£333 per Ha	Take improved grassland field corners and blocks out of management
CIGL2 ^{①②}	£515 per Ha	Maintain improved grassland to provide winter bird food
CLIG3 ^③	£151 per Ha	Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs
GRH1 ^③	£121 per Ha	Manage rough grazing for birds
GRH6	£646 per Ha	Manage priority habitat species-rich grassland
GRH7/8	£157 /187 per Ha	Haymaking supplement/Haymaking supplement late cut
GRH10	£28 per Ha	Lenient grazing supplement
GRH11	£59 per Ha	Cattle grazing supplement (non-moorland)
SCR1/2 ^③	£588/350 per Ha	Create /manage scrub and open habitat mosaics

ACTIONS FOR MOORLAND

CMOR1 ^③	£272 + £10.60 per Ha	Assess moorland and produce a written record
UPL1/2/3 ^③	£20/53/66 per Ha	Moderate/low/limited livestock grazing on moorland
UPL4/5/6	£7/18/23 per ha	Keep cattle & ponies on moorland supplement -Min. 30% GLU/Min. 70% GLU/100% GLU
UPL7 ^③	£33 per Ha	Shepherding livestock on moorland - no stock removal period
UPL8/9/10 ^③	£43/45/48 per Ha	Shepherding livestock on moorland - remove stock for min. 4 months/6 months/8 months

ACTIONS FOR SPECIES RECOVERY AND MANAGEMENT

SPM2/3	£92/146 per Ha	Keep native breeds on grazed habitats supplement - 50-80%/more than 80%
SPM4/5	£7/11 per Ha	Keep native breeds on extensively managed habitats supplement - 50-80%/more than 80%

ACTIONS FOR AGROFORESTRY

AGF1/2 ^③	£248/£385 per Ha	Maintain v low/low density in-field agroforestry on less sensitive land
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ACTIONS FOR BOUNDARY FEATURES

CHRW1 ^③	£5 per 100m -1 side	Assess and record hedgerow condition
CHRW2 ^③	£13 per 100m -1 side	Manage hedgerows so there's a range of different heights and widths
CHRW3 ^③	£10 per 100m - both sides	Maintain existing hedgerow trees, or establish new ones, so there's an average of at least 1 hedgerow tree per 100m
BND1 ^③	£27 per 100m - both sides	Maintain dry stone walls
BND2 ^③	£11 per 100m - 1 side	Maintain earth banks or stone-faced hedgebanks

① **Area Restrictions:** A maximum of 25% of a farm's total area can be placed into any combination of these 10 options.

② **Part field only:** This action can only be applied on part of the available area in the land parcel.

③ **Static:** This action must stay in the same location for the three years of the agreement. Exemptions for some where previously established, refer to scheme guidance.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE 2024 (as at May 2024)

Code	Payment	Summary of Actions
ACTIONS FOR WATERBODIES		
WBD1 ^③	£257 per pond	Simple Pond management (max 3 ponds per Ha)
WBD2 ^③	£4 per 100m - both sides	Ditch management
WBD3 ^{①②③}	£765 per Ha	In-field grass strip on arable land
WBD4 ^③	£489 per Ha	Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser input (5 years)
WBD5 ^③	£311 per Ha	Manage intensive grassland adjacent to a watercourse (5 years)
WBD6/7 ^③	£115 per Ha	Remove livestock from intensive grassland during the autumn & winter outside/inside SDAs
WBD8 ^③	£396 per Ha	Manage grassland to reduce nutrient levels in groundwater
WBD9	£156 per Ha	Nil fertiliser supplement

ACTIONS FOR BUFFER STRIPS

CAHL4 ^{②③}	£515 per Ha	4m-12m grass buffer strip on arable and horticultural land
CIGL3 ^{②③}	£235 per Ha	4m-12m grass buffer strip on improved grassland
BFS1 ^{②③}	£707 per Ha	12m-24m watercourse buffer strip on cultivated land
BFS2/3 ^③	£681/£311 per Ha	10m-20m grass buffer strip around in-field ponds on arable land/improved grassland
BFS4/5 ^{②③}	£553/£295 per Ha	Protect in-field trees on arable/intensive grassland
BFS6 ^{②③}	£742 per Ha	6m-12m habitat strip next to watercourses

ACTIONS FOR HERITAGE

HEF1/2 ^③	£5/£8 per sq m	Maintain weatherproof traditional farm or forestry buildings/in remote areas
HEF5 ^③	£215 per Ha	Control scrub on historic and archeological features (5 years)
HEF6 ^③	£55 per Ha	Manage historic and archeological features on grassland (5 years)
HEF8 ^{②③}	£2,512 per Ha	Maintain designed or engineered waterbodies (5 years)

ACTIONS FOR ORGANIC FARMING

OFC1/2 ^③	£187/£96 per Ha	Organic Conversion - Improved/Unimproved permanent grassland
OFC3/4	£298/£874 per Ha	Organic Conversion - Rotational land/Horticultural land
OFC5 ^③	£1,920 per ha	Organic Conversion - Top fruit
OFM1/2 ^③	£20/£41 per Ha	Organic Management - Improved/Unimproved permanent grassland
OFM3 ^③	£97 per Ha	Organic Management - Enclosed rough grazing
OFM4/5	£132/£707 per Ha	Organic Management - Rotational land/Horticultural land
OFM6 ^③	£1,920 per Ha	Organic Management- Top fruit
OFA1	£264 per Ha	Overwinter stubble (organic land)
OFA3	£935 per tonne	Supplementary winter bird food
OFA6	£380 per Ha	Undersown cereal crop (organic land)

COMMON LAND PAYMENT

£7.00 per Ha	If a group of 2 or more people enter SFI agreement on a common
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MANAGEMENT PAYMENT

£20.00 per Ha	Payable annually on the first 50 hectares entered into the agreement (£1,000 max). This will be doubled for the first year of the agreement for those that sign-up by March 2025.
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SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE 2024

Farmers can adopt a flexible 'pick-and-mix approach' - just choosing the actions they wish to carry out.

Agreements can be reviewed each year, but in the main 'upwards' only - i.e. increased area or more Actions. However, for rotational options it is possible to reduce the area so they work with your crop rotation and different sizes of land parcel - as long as it's at least 50% of the area entered into the action

for the first year of the agreement. It is also possible to have more than one agreement running at a time so, if more options become available, you do not have to wait for your annual review date to 'upgrade'.

Applications and administration of the scheme is carried-out online through Rural Payments. Applications can be made all-year round.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP HIGHER TIER

More information will be available later in the summer for those interested in the CS Higher Tier, this will include:

- eligibility
- how to apply and request specialist advice
- details on each Higher Tier action

Higher Tier is being kept separate as these agreements are usually more complicated and require specialist advice from

SFI 2023

New applications to SFI 2023 closed in June 2024. SFI 2023 agreements already in place will continue for the 3-years.

Existing SFI agreement holders who would like to include SFI 2024 actions can either enter a new agreement to run alongside their existing agreement or they can wait until the annual anniversary and add to their original agreement.

ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE PATHWAY

The *SFI Annual Health and Welfare Review* is the initial phase of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway and is open all year-round. It involves a Defra-funded yearly visit from the keepers own vet to review the health and welfare of the livestock and to provide advice and improvements that could be made to increase farm productivity and resilience. The review is flexible. The keeper and the vet can decide what the health and welfare priorities are for the farm and focus on these.

There is a requirement for testing for the endemic disease or

CAPITAL GRANTS

The SFI does not currently include any payments for *capital items* to help complete the actions. However it is possible to access one-off payments to buy equipment or other capital items from existing offers such as the Capital Grants Scheme or the Farming Investment Fund (FIF).

The standalone Capital Grant offers funding for capital items grouped under four themes; Boundaries, Trees & Orchards, Water Quality, Air Quality and Natural Flood Management. Agreements are for 3-years and the grant cap has been lifted. Applications can be made all-year round and you do not have to be in an agri-environment agreement.

Natural England (NE) or the Forestry Commission (FC). Later this summer applicants will be able to start working with NE or the FC to draw up their applications, with eligible farmers being able to submit applications online via Rural Payments during the 'winter' with the first agreements commencing in early 2023. After this, applications will be possible all year round with agreements normally starting the month after applications are approved.

ACTIONS AVAILABLE LATER IN 2024

Defra has announced the following actions will be available later in 2024;

- An educational access action, which will pay you to provide educational tours of your farm or woodland
- More endorsed SFI actions for farmland wildlife and habitats on grassland, heritage, wood pasture, orchards, coastal habitats and waterbodies.

condition of the livestock type being reviewed to recommended standards - BVD in dairy & beef cattle, effectiveness of worming treatments in sheep, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) in pigs. It is initially planned to be available for three years to livestock keepers with a minimum of 51 pigs, 21 sheep or 11 cattle. Payments are;

- Pigs - £684 per visit
- Beef - £522 per visit
- Sheep - £436 per visit
- Dairy - £372 per visit

The FIF provides grants to invest in new technology, equipment and infrastructure under six themes;

- The Farming Equipment & Technology Fund (FETF) - 3 grants to help buy items from a set list to help *Improve Productivity, Manage Slurry and Improve Animal Health & Welfare*. Grants of between £1,000 and £50,000.
- Improving Productivity (incl. Solar) - £15,000 - £500,000
- Slurry Infrastructure Grant - £25,000 - £50,000
- Animal Housing
- Water Management - up to £500,000
- Adding Value - £25,000 to £300,000

Applications are open in Rounds throughout the year.

For further information please visit our website

www.theandersonscentre.co.uk

Or contact a member of the team:

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HOW CAN ANDERSONS HELP?

The next decade will see a significant change in the support landscape as we transition to ELM. It will not be as 'simple' as claiming for the BPS and payment rates will depend on the level of involvement a business decides to undertake. At Andersons we are at the forefront of changes in policy and we also understand how real-world farming operates. We are here to help businesses navigate through the new policy and thrive in the post-CAP landscape.