



Catchment
Sensitive
Farming

Working together for a healthy
environment

Funding & advice for farmers, growers & land managers

Michael Graham

Catchment Sensitive Farming

Contacts:

Mobile: 07770 700830

Email: michael.graham@naturalengland.org.uk

Web Address: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/catchment-sensitive-farming-reduce-agricultural-water-pollution>



Funding for farmers, growers and land managers

What the Spring Budget means for farmers and land managers...

6th March 2024 the Government set out its ongoing commitment to back British farmers through the Spring Budget.

In 2024, the farming sector will benefit from the largest ever grant offer totalling **£427 million**

Which will support investment in equipment, technology and infrastructure that will increase farm productivity and prosperity.



Funding for farmers, growers and land managers

Internet link: [Funding for farmers, growers and land managers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Manage your land to benefit the environment](#)

[Invest in equipment, technology and infrastructure to increase productivity](#)

[Improve water quality and air quality](#)

[Reduce flood risk](#)

[Protect species and habitats and support biodiversity](#)

[Farming in protected landscapes](#)

[Protect animal health and welfare](#)

[Create or improve woodland and protect tree health](#)

[Attract private investment in nature projects](#)

[Funding for research and innovation](#)



Manage your land to benefit the environment

1. Sustainable Farming Incentive

Grant value: between £10 and £732 per hectare, depending on the action.

Closing date: to be confirmed.

If you were eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) in 2022 or 2023, you'll be able to apply for the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI).

SFI is a 3-year agreement made up of a choice of environmental land management actions you need to complete to receive payment. These actions will help you manage your land in a more sustainable way. The number of actions will expand each year until the full range is available by 2024.

If you are eligible, you can apply for up to 23 actions for:

- soil health
- moorland assessment
- hedgerows
- integrated pest management
- nutrient management
- farmland wildlife on arable and horticultural land
- farmland wildlife on improved grassland
- buffer strips
- low input grassland

Read the [guidance for SFI 2023 to apply](#).



Protect species and habitats and support biodiversity

Protect animal health and welfare

SFI annual health and welfare review

Open: apply at any time of year.

Grant value: from £372 to £684 per vet review depending on livestock type.

Farmers who keep cattle, sheep or pigs can get funding for a vet to visit their farm and carry out an annual health and welfare review.

Read the [guidance on how to apply for an annual health and welfare review of livestock](#).

Species Survival Fund

Grants value: from £250,000 to £3 million for 2-year projects.

Closed: the fund is now closed.

Further information is available on the [Heritage Fund website](#).



Manage your land to benefit the environment

2. Countryside Stewardship (CS)

Grant value: amounts vary depending on your CS agreement.

Closing date: some grants are open all year, others are time-limited - read the CS guidance for details.

You can apply for [Countryside Stewardship](#) to get paid to:

- increase biodiversity
- improve habitat
- expand woodland areas
- improve water quality
- improve air quality
- improve natural flood management

Use the [CS grant finder](#) to see what's available to achieve these environmental outcomes.



Protect species and habitats and support biodiversity

You can apply for grants to protect species and habitats and support biodiversity through CS. Check the CS grant finder for:

- [priority habitats options](#)
- [pollinators and wildlife options](#)
- [biodiversity options](#)

You can choose grants suitable for your land and [apply to the relevant CS grant scheme](#).

CS Wildlife Offers

Grant value: amounts vary depending on your CS agreement.

Closing date: some grants are open all year, others are time-limited - read the CS guidance for details.

Wildlife Offers are part of CS Mid Tier and are a simpler way to improve biodiversity based on land use. You can choose to:

- improve nectar sources for insect pollinators and foraging for birds
- provide additional winter food sources for seed-eating birds
- improve habitats and other resources for specific species or areas

There are CS wildlife packages for:

- [arable land](#)
- [lowland grazing](#)
- [mixed farming](#)
- [uplands](#)



Manage your land to benefit the environment

3. Landscape Recovery

Closing date: the scheme is now closed.

Landscape Recovery pays groups of farmers and land managers to do long-term, large-scale projects together. Land must be in England and consist of at least 500 connected hectares.

The [Landscape Recovery scheme](#) supports:

- net zero carbon emissions
- protected sites
- wildlife-rich habitat



Protect species and habitats and support biodiversity

Farming in protected landscapes

Open: apply at any time of year.

Grant value: amounts vary depending on your project.

Closing date: projects must end by March 2025.

Through the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, you can apply for funding if you're a farmer or land manager within an area of outstanding natural beauty or national park in England. You must be planning projects that:

- support nature recovery
- mitigate the impacts of climate change
- provide opportunities for people to discover nature
- protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape

Read the guidance for the [FiPL programme](#) to find out how to apply.



Improve water & air quality and reduce flood risk

Improve water quality and air quality

You can apply for grants to improve water and air quality through CS. Check the CS grant finder for [water quality options](#) and [air quality options](#). You can choose grants suitable for your land and [apply to the relevant CS grant scheme](#).

Grant value: amounts vary depending on your CS agreement.

Closing date: some grants are open all year, others are time-limited - read the CS guidance for details.

Reduce flood risk

You can apply for grants to reduce flood risk through CS. Check the CS grant finder for [natural flood management options](#). You can choose grants suitable for your land and [apply to the relevant CS grant scheme](#).

Grant value: amounts vary depending on your CS agreement.

Closing date: some grants are open all year, others are time-limited - read the CS guidance for details.



Create or improve woodland and protect tree health

Creating woodland

The [England Woodland Creation Grant](#) (EWCO) provides funding to create new woodland on areas that are at least 1 hectare.

Open: all year round.

Grant value: up to £10,200 with an additional £8,000 if the woodland is for public benefits.

Closing date: 1 January 2025.

Read the Forestry Commission's overview of [grants available for woodland creation, maintenance, management and tree health](#).

Creating regional woodland

If your land is located within the catchment area of one of our local Woodland Creation Partners, you could apply for a regional woodland creation or tree planting grant that can be tailored to your circumstances.

Catchment areas are as follows:

- [England's Community Forests](#) – 13 local Community Forests across the country
- [The Northern Forest](#) – in parts of Lancashire, Merseyside, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire
- [The National Forest](#) - right in the heart of the country, covering 200 square miles of the Midlands
- [Forest for Cornwall](#) – across Cornwall
- [Great Northumberland Forest](#) – across Northumberland

Our [woodland creation campaign](#) tells you more about these regional grants.



Create or improve woodland and protect tree health

Planning woodland

CS offers grants for [10-year woodland management planning](#).

Open: all year round.

Grant value: depends on the area of eligible woodland.

The [Woodland Creation Planning Grant](#) (WCPG) provides funding to prepare a Woodland Creation Design Plan that complies with the UK Forestry Standard.

Open: all year round.

Grant value: maximum £30,000 per project.

You can use this plan to support further woodland creation grant applications, such as EWCO.

Protecting tree health

You can apply to the [tree health pilot scheme 2024](#) to test different ways of slowing the spread of pests and diseases affecting trees in England. Grants are available for:

- ash with ash dieback
- diseased larch, spruce and sweet chestnut
- oak with oak processionary moth
- restocking trees

Open: all year round.

Grant value:

- up to 80% of felling costs per m³
- up to 40% of infrastructure costs

CS [Woodland Tree Health grant](#) pays you to restock or improve woodland after tree health problems. There are 19 capital items available under CS to choose from.

Open: all year round.

Grant value: varies depending on the capital items chosen as part of your CS grant agreement.



Invest in equipment, technology and infrastructure to increase productivity

You can apply for grants through the [Farming Investment Fund \(FIF\)](#) to invest in new technology, equipment and infrastructure.

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF)

The [Farming Equipment and Technology Fund \(FETF\)](#) has 3 grants to help you buy items to:

- improve productivity
- manage slurry
- improve animal health and welfare

Open: first window will open for applications shortly.

Grant value: up to £50,000 towards productivity and slurry items and up to £25,000 towards animal health and welfare items. Farmers, foresters, growers and contractors to those sectors can apply.

Closing date: 17th April 2024

[The Rural Payments Agency \(RPA\)](#) will allocate funding after all applications have been received and scored. If you are successful in your application, you could receive all or some of the funding that you apply for.

Successful applicants will receive a grant of:

- a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £50,000 towards productivity items
- a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £50,000 towards slurry items
- a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £25,000 towards animal health and welfare items



Invest in equipment, technology and infrastructure to increase productivity

Water Management grant (round 2)

Grant value: between £35,000 and £500,000.

Closing date: eligibility checker now closed.

Guidance for [round 2 applicants](#). If you've been invited to make a full application, you have until 11:59pm on 31 October 2024 to submit your documents.

Guidance for [round 1 applicants](#). Round 1 of the Water Management grant is closed.

Internal Drainage Boards

The government is to provide £75 million to Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) to upgrade their infrastructure and support them to recover from the damage caused by recent storms. This will enable more efficient water management on agricultural land and better protect farms and rural communities from flooding.

More details on how funding will be allocated to IDBs will be announced in due course.



Invest in equipment, technology and infrastructure to increase productivity

Slurry Infrastructure grant (round 2)

Grant value: between £25,000 and £250,000.

Closing date: eligibility checker now closed.

Guidance for [round 2 applicants](#). If you've been invited to make a full application, you have until 11:59pm on 30 September 2024 to submit your slurry store location and design assessment form.

Guidance for [round 1 applicants](#). If you've been invited to make a full application, you have until 11:59pm on 28 June 2024 to submit your documents.

The [Adding Value grant](#) is closed.

Slurry Infrastructure Grant

Caution: gases to be aware of - Methane, Hyrdogen Sulphide, Carbon Dioxide, Ammonia

Incremental losses and gains:

Nutrient balance:

GHG's: Cow digestion 46% Cow feed 37%

Ammonia: Livestock housing 27% Outdoor grazing 7%



Building & Yard management & Slurry management:
Ammonia: Ventilation & Hard standings 7%



Manure management:
GHG's: Manure handling 9%
Ammonia: Manure stores 8%



Manure storage & spreading:
Nitrous Oxide: Loss when spreading
Ammonia: Fertiliser 18%, Digestate sludge 5%, Sewage sludge 2%

Umbilical and Trailing shoe slurry application



Key indicators: Urea & Milk protein



Invest in equipment, technology and infrastructure to increase productivity

Calf Housing for Health and Welfare grant

Grant value: between £15,000 and £500,000.

Closed: eligibility checker now closed.

Read the [Calf Housing for Health and Welfare grant](#) guidance to find out about the next stage of the application process. If you've been invited to submit an Ambient Environment Location and Design (AELD) form, you have until 11:59pm on 30 April 2024 to submit this.



Invest in equipment, technology and infrastructure to increase productivity

Improving Farm Productivity grant (round 2)

Opens: eligibility checker opened in January 2024.

Grant value: supporting automation & solar energy –

between £25,000 and £500,000 for robotic or automatic equipment installation.

between £15,000 and £100,000 for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

Closing date: 21 March 2024.

Round 2 of the Improving Farm Productivity grant opened in January 2024 for farmers and horticulturalists in England. Find out [what the grant can pay for and how to apply](#).



Etc.

Attract private investment in nature projects

Opens: 11 December 2023.

Grant value: grants of up to £100,000 from a £5 million fund.

Closing date: now closed.

The [Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund \(NEIRF\)](#) offers grants to help farmers attract private investment in nature projects, such as selling carbon units through peatland restoration. [Read the NEIRF fund guidance](#) for more information.

Funding for research and innovation

You can apply for grants through the [Farming Innovation Programme \(FIP\)](#) to:

- improve agricultural and horticultural productivity, sustainability and resilience
- reduce the environmental impact of agriculture and horticulture
- use science and research to develop solutions for practical challenges in agriculture and horticulture

More information is available on the [FIP website](#).

Biodiversity Net Gain?



Catchment Sensitive Farming delivery

DEFRA Project delivered jointly by the Environment Agency & Natural England

Funded to work with farmers and land owners to reduce pollution from:

Water:

- Nitrogen
- Phosphorus
- Sediment
- Faecal indicator organisms (FIO's)
- Pesticides,

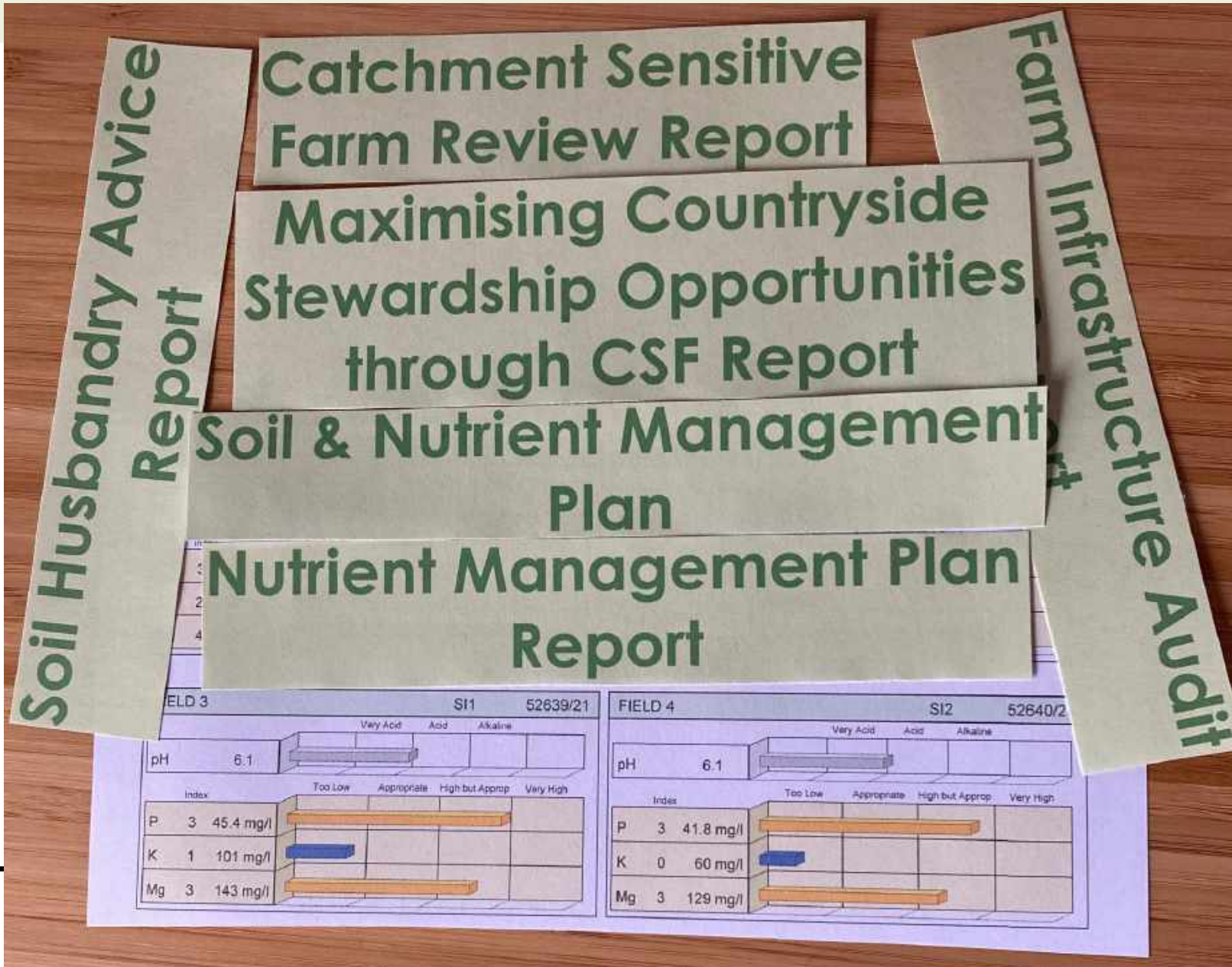
Air quality (ammonia)

Natural Flood Management

Climate Change – an area of work being developed for future development

Project began as a pilot with 4 catchments then in 2006 with 40 initial catchments, now covering all of England with over 100 staff

Management reports – understanding farm issues





Thank you

Michael Graham

Catchment Sensitive Farming

Mobile: 0777 0700 830

Email: michael.graham@naturalengland.org.uk