

# Farming Newsletter



## WELCOME!



In our newsletter this month you will find out about support and funding available to boost your farm business, and help you to get the best out of your land, crops and livestock. Read on to find out more about what's on offer this month, and you can also keep up to date on our [Farming Hub](#) online. From all of us at Mersey Rivers Trust we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### APPLY NOW: SLURRY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT ROUND TWO

Farmers can now apply for grants of £25k - £250k towards different types of slurry store, slurry store cover and supporting equipment through the second round of the Slurry Infrastructure grant. More than £70 million of grant funding is available. This is a great opportunity to make better use of organic nutrients, tackle water pollution and improve air quality. Read the guidance [here](#) before the application window closes on 17 January 2024.



### IMPROVING FARM PRODUCTIVITY GRANT

From January 2024, businesses can apply for capital grants of £25,000 - £500,000 towards robotic and automatic equipment. For the first time, it will also fund solar equipment which can be fitted on rooftops and float on irrigation reservoirs, helping to increase the uptake of renewable energy generation on farms. Guidance can be found [here](#) ahead of the grant being released.

## FARMING ADVICE SERVICE

The Farming Advice Service (FAS) is funded by DEFRA to help farmers understand and meet the requirements of cross compliance, BPS and relevant EU policies. You can sign up for their newsletter that sends reminders about Cross Compliance dates, and there is now an online chat function on the website [here](#) to answer your queries immediately.

## FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

The Farming Community Network (FCN) helps members of the farming community manage and thrive through difficult times and periods of change. FCN provides a listening ear and essential support to those in need, helping thousands of people deal with issues such as finances, mental health and succession, to animal disease. You can contact them via a telephone helpline, email or via the website which is [here](#).



Farmers in Utkinton and Cotebrook, and those in Crewe, Crewe Green and Barthomley are all eligible for a **FREE farm water management plan** produced by Mersey Rivers Trust. To chat to a Farm Advisor about this, please contact us [here](#).

## WOODLAND CREATION PLANNING GRANT

Land managers can now transfer land from a Countryside Stewardship (CS) agreement into the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) without CS payments being recovered, subject to certain conditions. If you wish to apply for EWCO on land in a CS agreement, please find information on the required conditions and process in Section 3.3.2 in the [EWCO Grant Manual](#).

