



# Funding & advice for farmers, growers & land managers

Michael Graham  
Catchment Sensitive Farming

Contacts:

Mobile: 07770 700830

Email: [michael.graham@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:michael.graham@naturalengland.org.uk)

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



# Catchment Sensitive Farming

**CSF is a DEFRA Project delivered jointly by the Environment Agency & Natural England  
100 staff across England – Michael Graham is the lead for the Alt Crossens catchment area**

Funded to work with farmers and landowners to reduce pollution:

- Reduce water pollution from:
  - Nitrogen
  - Phosphorus
  - Sediment
  - Faecal indicator organisms (FIOs) – particularly to achieve bathing water compliance
  - Pesticides
- Reduce air pollution from ammonia
- Also, working with farmers & landowners to deliver Natural Flood Management solutions

Climate Change mitigation & adaptation an area of work being developed for the future

# Budget: Funding for farmers, growers and land managers

What the Autumn Budget means for [grant funding](#) for farmers and land managers...

Defra priorities confirmed as:

- clean up our rivers, lakes and seas
- create a roadmap to move Britain to a zero-waste economy
- support farmers to boost food security
- ensure nature's recovery
- protect communities from flooding

The Defra farming budget will be **£2.4bn** in 2025/26

This includes **£1.8bn** for Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes.

Defra farming funding aimed at:

- boosting Britain's food security
- accelerate the transition to a more resilient and sustainable farming sector

# Budget: Funding for farmers, growers and land managers

- Government confirms its commitment to farmers - and the vital role they play - remains steadfast.
- Government will continue to invest in farmers and land managers to make their businesses, food production and the country more sustainable and resilient through Environmental Land Management (ELM).
- All of the Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes, SFI, Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier and Landscape will continue
- Government will continue to evolve and improve these grant schemes in an orderly way to make them work for farmers and nature.

# Funding for farmers, growers and land managers

Government funding schemes can be found by following the hyperlink:

[Funding for farmers, growers and land managers - GOV.UK](#)

To register for updates follow the link:  [Get emails about this page](#) & set up your update frequency choice

You are presented with a list of hyperlinks leading to different schemes and funding sources:

[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](#)

# Funding for farmers, growers and land managers

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

[Farming in protected landscapes](#)

[Improve animal health and welfare](#)

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

[Attract private investment in nature projects](#)

[Funding for research and innovation](#)

[Delinked payments and lump sum payments](#)



# Manage your land to benefit the environment

## Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

### Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

**Grant value:** variable payment rates depending on the specific action(s)

- 3-year agreement
- choice of 102 environmental land management actions you need to complete to receive payment.
- actions will help you manage your land in a more sustainable way
- number of actions have been expanded as the scheme has developed
- 2024 expanded offer: [Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme: expanded offer for 2024 - GOV.UK](#)
- Link to find funding streams in SFI: [Find funding for land or farms - GOV.UK](#)

***An interactive information table has been created by CSF to help you explore SFI opportunities***

***We will send you a copy by email and publish it on the Water Friendly Farming Hub***



# Manage your land to benefit the environment: Countryside Stewardship (CS)

## Countryside Stewardship (CS) – Higher Tier

**Grant value:** amounts vary depending on your CS Higher Tier agreement.

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

- Aim is to increase biodiversity, improve habitat, expand woodland areas, improve water quality, improve air quality, improve natural flood management.
- Link to Countryside Stewardship scheme detail:  
[Countryside Stewardship: get funding to protect and improve the land you manage - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship)
- Use the CS Grant finder to see what's available:  
[Countryside Stewardship grant finder - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grant-finder)





# Manage your land to benefit the environment: Landscape Recovery

## ELM Landscape Recovery

Two rounds of funding granted so far. A third round is anticipated during 2025.

ELM Landscape Recovery pays groups of farmers and land managers for long-term and large-scale projects together (20-year agreement for capital and maintenance funding)

Mix of public Defra funding (25%) & funding (75%) from other sources through a Special Legal Entity

Land must be in England and consist of at least 500 “connected” hectares in total.

The [Landscape Recovery scheme](#) supports:

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

**Please speak to CSF/Natural England or Mersey Rivers Trust for more information**

# Capital Items Funding

## Capital Items

76 capital items available of which 24 require CSF approval.

- Applications can be made at any time of year
- Budget is flexible
- Applications must meet the criteria laid out in item specifications to land areas
- For further advice talk to CSF staff (Michael Graham)

You can get paid for capital items to help you carry out management actions for environmental benefit:

- Boundaries, trees & orchards,
  - Water quality
  - Air quality
  - Natural flood management.
- 
- See [Capital items: guidance for applicants and agreement holders](#) for more information
  - Making a Capital Grant application: [Capital Grants 2024 - GOV.UK](#)
  - Capital Grant finder – what's available: [Countryside Stewardship grant finder - GOV.UK](#)

# Invest in equipment, technology and infrastructure to increase productivity

## 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

Grant values:

- up to £50,000 towards productivity and slurry items
- up to £25,000 towards animal health and welfare items.

Closing date: **currently closed** - previously applications have been 3x/year. Expected to open again in 2025.

*This has been a popular grant for those looking to improve technology.*



# Invest in equipment, technology and infrastructure to increase productivity

## Improving Farm Productivity Grant (Round 2)

### Grant value:

- between £25,000 and £500,000 for robotic or automatic equipment
- between £15,000 and £100,000 for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems

**Closing date:** invited applicants have until **11.59pm on 31 July 2025** to submit their full application.

Read the [guidance for Improving Farm Productivity round 2 applicants](#).

# Improve animal health and welfare

## Get funding to improve animal health and welfare

**Grant value:** from £215 to £923 per review or follow-up depending on livestock type:

- Pigs £557 - £923
- Sheep £436 - £639
- Beef cattle £522 – £837
- Dairy cattle £372

**Open:** apply at any time of year.

**Closing date:** ends 19 June 2027

Farmers can also get funding for a vet to visit to carry out an **annual health and welfare review, and an endemic disease** follow-up if they keep:

- 11+ beef cattle
- 11+ dairy cattle
- 21+ sheep
- 51+ pigs

Read the [funding to improve animal health and welfare: guidance for farmers and vets](#)

# Improve animal health and welfare: Laying Hen Housing

## Laying Hen Housing for Health and Welfare Grant (Round 1)

**Grant value:** between £5,000 and £500,000.

For existing commercial egg producers or pullet rearers as a registered keeper of **1000+ birds**

**Closing date:** invited applicants have until 11.59pm on 30 January 2026 to submit their full application.

The Round 1 Grant is to provide animal health and welfare benefits through grant funding for:

- replacing or upgrading existing laying hen or pullet housing (a 'comprehensive' project)
- adding a veranda onto existing laying hen or pullet housing (a 'veranda-only' project)

Read the [Laying Hen Housing for Health and Welfare guidance](#) to find out how to submit your full application.

# Improve animal health and welfare: Calf Housing

## Calf Housing for Health and Welfare Grant

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

For existing cattle farmers, including calf rearing, with 11 or more cattle

**Closing date:** invited applicants have until 11.59pm on 30 April 2025 to submit their full application.

The Round 1 Grant is to build new, or upgrade existing, buildings to house calves to deliver health and welfare benefits.

Read the [Calf Housing for Health and Welfare grant guidance](#) to find out about how to submit your full application.





**Thank you**

**Michael Graham**

**Catchment Sensitive Farming**

**Mobile: 0777 0700 830**