England's Future Farming and Countryside Programme (FFCP)

An overview of changes to English agricultural policy 2021-2027
70% of land in England is farmed

In 2020, agriculture contributed to 0.58% of UK GDP

In 2020, UK agricultural area was 17.3 million hectares of land

In 2021, Defra estimates there were 297,000 farmers in England

Wheat is the most grown crop in the UK

Average farm size 87Ha

67% self sufficient

10% GHG emissions in 2020 (UK)

Nature in decline in many areas
Devolution and agriculture

• Agriculture is a devolved policy area.
• Leaving the EU means the devolved administrations and England will be able to develop their own agricultural policies.
• There are some policies that relate to agriculture that are reserved matters for the UK Government
  • Competition
  • UK’s obligations to the WTO
What do we want to achieve?

• Food security
• Productive, resilient farms
• Environment and climate
• Animal health and welfare
English agricultural policy

• 7-year transition period - from 2021 to 2027
• Moving away from Direct Payments
• Replace with targeted payments
• Same level of funding (£2.4bn/year = Fr2.77bn/yr)

Figure 1: Funding plan for 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25

Taken from Agricultural Transition Plan
Grants and ongoing payments

• A range of grants and ongoing payments
• Open and accessible to all
Grants in 2022

In 2022, the Farming Investment Fund has grants for:

• productivity
• slurry storage
• animal health and welfare

There are also grants for:

• environmental improvements (Countryside Stewardship, tree health, Farming in Protected Landscapes)
• innovation, research and development
Grants beyond 2022

In future years there will be:

• more rounds of the Farming Investment Fund, including slurry storage
• more innovation, research and development grants
• England’s Rural Prosperity Fund, to support diversification
• capital offers for environmental improvements
The three environmental land management schemes

Tests and Trials
- Started 2018

Sustainable Farming Incentive
- Pilot agreements live / piloting
- Roll out of the scheme – new standards added

Local Nature Recovery
- Phased rollout

Landscape Recovery
- Piloting – leading into rollout

Full schemes all live from 2025
Ongoing payments in 2022

In 2022, farmers can apply for payments for:

- managing habitats, woodlands and flood risk  
  (Countryside Stewardship)
- protecting soils and assessing moorlands  
  (Sustainable Farming Incentive)
- planting and managing trees (EWCO and other 
  tree schemes)
Ongoing payments beyond 2022

- A wider range of actions through SFI, in 2023 and 2024
- Countryside Stewardship – starting in 2023 or 2024
- Things that help the local environment, through Local Nature Recovery, from 2024/25
- Another round of bespoke Landscape Recovery projects
- Piloting animal health and welfare ‘payment by results’ from 2023
- Joining farming and leaving
How we work with farmers

How we are working with farmers:

• Co-Design
• Test and Trials

We are making things:

• fair
• flexible
• workable
More information


• Future farming blog [https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/]

• Overview summary [https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2021/06/23/how-farming-is-changing/]

Questions
Schweizer Agrarpolitik Forum 2022

(R)evolution in der Schweizer Agrarpolitik – Wohin geht die Reise?