SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) aims to improve farm productivity, support food production, and protect the environment. From September 2023 farmers can apply, there is an initial 23 'actions', covering areas such as soils, hedgerows, moorlands, integrated pest management, wildlife, nutrient management, buffer strips, low input grassland, and annual health and welfare reviews of livestock.

WHY SFI ?

AN ANNUAL ADMIN MANAGEMENT PAYMENT of £20 per hectare, for the first 50 hectares of land entered in the scheme. This means you can receive up to £1,000 per year, in addition to 'action' payments to cover the administrative costs of participation.

A FLEXIBLE 'PICK & MIX' APPROACH of the 'actions' mean you can combine as many of the current and forthcoming actions into your agreement as and when you wish. It is only a 3- year agreement so will be more adaptable with your farming practices. No minimum area of land is required for any action.

GOOD FOR CASH FLOW with farmers able to apply all year round and the agreement will start the 1st of the following month after the application is accepted. Payments will be paid quarterly, first payment being received four months after the commencement date.

SITS ALONGSIDE OTHER SCHEMES including the SFI Pilot, ELS, HLS & Mid-Tier agreements, providing no dual funding is occurring.

BUILDS UPON BUSINESS RESILIENCE by applying sustainable food production practices on your farm, improving soil health, biodiversity or help mitigating the impact of extreme weather. All of which help support your livelihood in the short and long term.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SFI?

Farmers and landowners who;

- were eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) on 16 May 2022 or 15 May 2023
- have eligible land in England for the SFI actions you choose
- will have management control of the land for the 3-year agreement (including tenants)

WHY CHOOSE US?

- Within our team of rural professionals we have qualified members, including FACTS & BASIS members who can provide the management plans and annual reviews.
- We are here to relieve you from the administrative burden and speed up the process of getting your farm into an agreement, so you can quickly receive monies.
- Our team are here to advise on the best possible actions available that work with your farming system to get the most out of the scheme.

OUR PROCESS

1. Get in contact with a member of our rural professional team to book in for an initial meeting.

2. Benefit from a free initial consultation where we will discuss your current farming system and how SFI can enhance your holding.

3. Discuss and prepare an application that will sit alongside your enterprises.

4. Quick return of an agreement offer subject to any changes and amendments.

5. Commencement of agreement shortly after acceptance and first quarterly payments received direct into your account by month four.

6. Reap the rewards and reduce the burden of the demise of the BPS.

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YOUR SPECIALIST TEAM

Our specialist rural team have a strong focus helping farmers through the changes in rural policy and advising how to utilise the Agricultural Transition Plan to get the most out of your holding and enterprises.

To book an appointment or seek further clarification please contact one of our offices below;

Craven Arms & Ludlow
Joanna Wall
01588 672385
cravenarms@mccartneys.co.uk

Hay on Wye
Stacie Matthews & Sion Thomas
01497 820778
hay@mccartneys.co.uk

Knighton
Eloise Phillips & Adleis Jones
01547 528621
knighton@mccartneys.co.uk

Kington
Gareth Wall & Amelia Crofts-Hill
01544 230316
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OTHER ENGLISH GRANTS

Round 2 Slurry Infrastructure Grant Funding is available to help replace, erect new or improve existing slurry storage facilities, in order to meet regulations to be capable of storage for at least 6 months, for pig, beef and dairy farmers. Aiding improvement to the use of organic nutrients on your holding in turn reducing pollution and increasing productivity. All granted funded stores must be fitted with an impermeable cover, unless a slurry bag is being used or slurry is treated through acidification. The grant will provide a range of slurry store types, such as tanks, lagoons, concrete stores, as well as apparatus such as separators, reception pits, pumps, pipework and agitators. The grant is based on standard costs and fixed contributions with the minimum grant available of £25,000 and maximum being £250,000.

Applications are via two stage approach, with Stage 1, an eligibility checker and if successful you will be invited to apply in Stage 2.

Countryside Stewardship Capital Grants is a three-year agreement to benefit boundaries, trees, and orchards, water, and air as well as natural flood management. Over 75 options available to include renewal of yard concrete, covering of muck and silage stores, roofing of handling and feeding areas, fencing, planting and management of hedgerows, livestock drinkers, guttering etc.

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Farming in Protected Landscapes within AONB or National Parks aimed to protect the landscape, mitigate any impacts of climate change, create opportunities for people to enjoy & discover the landscapes.

You could get up to 100% of the costs of a project, providing no commercial gain is incurred. The amount will depend on how much the project will benefit your business.

If your project is the same as a Countryside Stewardship (CS) activity, you will be paid the same as the CS rate. If your project is not the same as a CS activity, the protected landscape team will offer funding on the estimated costs. You must maintain capital infrastructure like fences, gates or restored buildings for 5 years from the completion date.

Applications for over £10,000 will be judged by a local assessment panel.

Applications for less than £10,000 will be scored by a senior member of the team who has not been involved with or given advice to the application.