

Farming Support Packages

Defra's Secretary of State, Steve Barclay, announced up to £45 million in competitions and grants to open in the coming weeks, as part of a pledge to champion British agriculture with a focus on innovation and automation to boost productivity.

From 11th December farmers will be able to apply for individual grants up to £100,000 to prepare nature projects that will attract investment from the private sector from a total £5 million. The natural environment investment readiness fund (NEIRF) will help rural business to attract investment from the private sector. For more information, please read our [blog](#).

Then, from 18th December farmers, growers and foresters in England will be able to apply for a share of our £850,000 Research Starter funding to get innovative new projects off the ground if they have the potential to move the agricultural sector to net zero. Previous rounds of this funding have helped researchers test the best way to turn nitrogen upcycled from plastics into a useable pellet that acts as a fertiliser.

From January 2024, businesses can apply for an initial share of £30million for robotics and solar equipment, with further funding potentially available depending on levels of interest. This is part of the second round of the Improving Farming Productivity grant. And the first time the grant has supported solar equipment, to help increase energy resilience and the take-up of renewable energy on farms. Please check [Defra's Farming blog](#) for further news on the grant.

From 15th January businesses can apply for a share of the £7.8million Large Research and Development fund, which supports industrial research or experimental development projects that fast-track solutions to agricultural challenges.

In 2024, we will extend the range of Farming Innovation Programme grants to include the Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) grant. From this, businesses will be able to apply for a share of a further £44million to test and trial new technology and techniques on farms.

We are also pleased to confirm that we will launch a £4m Smaller Abattoirs Fund by the end of this year.

Here is a list of schemes that are potentially relevant to native breeds, we will keep you updated on schemes as they come online:

Sustainable Farming Incentive Programme. [The Sustainable Farming Incentive - Farming \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Stewardship and Landscape Recovery Scheme [Landscape Recovery: developing the scheme together - Farming \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Protection and Infrastructure grants: You can [apply for a Protection and Infrastructure grant](#) at any time of the year from 5 January 2023.

Facilitation Fund: You can apply for the [2024 round of Facilitation Funding](#) now. Applications are open until 15 January 2024. The [Facilitation Fund](#) supports individuals who act as facilitators to bring together groups of farmers, foresters and other land managers to improve environmental outcomes in their local area.

SP8: [Native breeds at risk supplement](#): Currently available on Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier in combination with a land management option.

Small Abattoirs Fund: [Applications open for new £4 million fund to support smaller abattoirs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Make sure to use these Land use codes (2023) in any application: See the [land use codes](#) you should use in your CS application via the Rural Payments Agency.

Capital and revenue payment rates from January 2023

Defra has reviewed and updated CS payment rates based on current costs. See the rate changes for:

- [CS capital items](#)
- [CS revenue options](#)

Further guidance can be found here: **How to make a claim for payment**
CS agreement holders should follow the [guidance on how to make a capital or revenue claim](#) to get paid under the terms of their CS agreement.

How HMRC treats subsidy payments

Your grant and subsidy payments are paid before tax is taken off. You may need to tell HMRC about these if you or your business pay UK tax. For more information, read HMRC's Business Income Manual [BIM40451 - Specific receipts: grants and subsidies](#). If you have an accountant, you should also discuss this with them.