

Rural Insight

October 2025



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Grant update

Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier

Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier opened for applications in the middle of September for Farmers and Land managers who have been invited and completed the pre-application process.

Farming Innovation Program (FIP)

From 15 September, applications opened for the Small R&D Partnerships competition (Round 4) with up to £7.8 million to bring new agricultural technology onto the market.

From 13 October, the Feasibility Studies competition (Round 4) will open applications for developing early ideas that will address major on-farm or immediate post farmgate challenges or opportunities. This fund has up to £4.8 million available.

Farm Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF)

The most recent round of the FETF was designed to help farmers invest in equipment and technology to improve productivity, better manage slurry and support animal health and welfare. Grant funding agreements have started to be offered to successful applicants under the productivity and slurry management option. Due to a high volume of applications for the animal health and welfare items these assessments are taking longer but grant funding agreements are slowly being released.



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Wider Farming News

Government Funding

Funding for farmers through the Environmental Land Management schemes such as Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier and the Sustainable Farming Incentive will increase by 150 % to £2 billion by 2029. The Government has allocated £11.8 billion to deliver sustainable farming and food production over this parliament.

bTB mapping tool available

ibTB is a free interactive map which helps cattle farmers and their vets understand bovine TB levels in their area and manage the risks when purchasing cattle. It shows the location of bTB breakdowns, provides some information on the TB risk status of all cattle herds in England and Wales and for animals in English herds includes an animal's date of birth, sex and breed, as well as the date and type of the last TB test.

If you would like any support on the above grants, please contact your local rural consultant.

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For more information:

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Stewardship option guidance

AB8 / IPM2 / CIPM2 Flower rich margins and plots

Cut (and remove if dense) or graze 90% of the area between 15th August and 31st October to leave a plant height of between 10cm and 20cm. Leave 10% of the area uncut or ungrazed.

AB12 / AHW2 / CAHW2 Supplementary winter bird food

Under the scheme rules you may not need to start feeding until December but there is a significant benefit for your farmland birds from starting to feed a month sooner.

The cheapest way to feed is to use wheat out of your shed to make up 70% of the ration and buy 3 other small seeds to make up the balance. However, if you want to make a bigger difference for your farmland birds then you should consider our mixes.

IPM3 / CIPM3 Companion cropping

With Autumn drilling in progress make sure you have either planted your companion crop with the cash crop or spin it on after your post emergent herbicide application.

BE3 / HRW2 / CHRW2 Hedgerow Management

You can now cut your hedges until 28th February. You can either cut:

- If on a three-year cutting regime – cut a third of the length in this option.
- If you have a two-year cutting regime then you cannot cut until 1st January.
- Or if under the SFI, cut the hedges incrementally on an annual basis.

Hedges and Tree planting

If you are planning on planting any new hedges or gapping up existing hedgerows or planting new woodlands this is a good time to start this work.

Compliance

Farming Rules for Water

Established green cover by 15 October (unless there is justification not to). Green cover includes cover crops, commercial crops and green manure.

There are no closed periods for FYM but remember no manures should be spread if the land is flooded, waterlogged, snow covered or frozen for more than 12 hours in the previous 24 hours.

NVZ Spreading Restrictions

For high readily available nitrogen organic manures, no spreading*:

On grassland

- Shallow or sandy soils – 1st September to 31st December
- All other soils – 15th October to 31st January

On tillage land

- Sandy or shallow soils – 1st August to 31st December
- All other soils – 1st October to 31st January

For manufactured fertilisers, no spreading*:

On grassland

- From 15th September to 15th January

On tillage land

- From 1st September to 15th January

*There are some exceptions.

If you need any help with environmental scheme management or compliance, please get in touch with your local rural consultant.