

Sustainable Farming Incentive

SFI will help farmers manage land to improve food production and farm sustainably.

ARABLE & HORTICULTURAL SOILS STANDARD

IMPROVED GRASSLAND SOILS STANDARD

MOORLAND STANDARD

ANNUAL HEALTH & WELFARE REVIEW*

SURVEY MOORLAND FEATURES

A DISCUSSION WITH THE VET ABOUT HEALTH & WELFARE OF YOUR ANIMALS*

IDENTIFY PUBLIC GOODS PROVIDED BY THE MOORLAND

IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE PUBLIC GOODS

ESTABLISH & MAINTAIN HERBAL LEYS ON AT LEAST 15% OF LAND

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL



WINTER COVER

- 70% GREEN COVER (INTRODUCTORY LEVEL)
- 50% GREEN COVER & 20% MULTI-SPECIES COVER CROPS (INTERMEDIATE LEVEL)

MINIMISE BARE GROUND OVER WINTER

- NO MORE THAN 5% BARE GROUND

ADD ORGANIC MATTER TO IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH

COMPLETE A SOIL ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCE A SOIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

TEST YOUR SOIL FOR ORGANIC MATTER



*Annual Health & Welfare Review applications open Autumn 2022

SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE IN 2022

SFI will pay farmers to do things that support food production and are good for the environment.

In 2022, there are two soils 'standards' and one moorland 'standard'. We'll be rolling out more standards in 2023-2025, so you'll be able to add more standards to your agreement and get paid for doing more. Information on the future SFI rollout will be on GOV.UK.

KEY FEATURES

- If you and your land are eligible, you can get an agreement
- You can choose how much land to enter – there's no minimum or maximum area
- Agreements will last for 3 years
- You'll be paid on a quarterly basis - your first payment will be made 3 months after your agreement starts
- You can request changes to your agreement each year – add more standards, increase the levels for existing standards, or add more land

AM I ELIGIBLE?

You can apply for SFI if:

- you're eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme
- the land is wholly located in England and eligible for the standard you select

You'll also need to have management control of the land for the 3-year SFI agreement. This will usually be the person actively farming the land who is the owner occupier or tenant. For 'rolling' year-by-year tenancies, you can enter this land into SFI if you expect to have control for the full 3 years.

It's possible to include the same land in SFI and another scheme (such as Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship) if:

- you and your land are eligible for each scheme
- the activities or outcomes you're being paid for under each scheme are compatible
- you're not being paid for a similar activity or outcome on the same area of land at the same time ("double funding")

To find out how this works for specific schemes, read the SFI guidance on GOV.UK

HOW TO APPLY

- Apply online in the Rural Payments service, using your existing sign in details
- Applications will remain open, so you can apply throughout the year at a time that works best for you

WHAT CAN I APPLY FOR IN 2022?

Arable and horticultural soils standard

Introductory level –
£22 per hectare

Intermediate level –
£40 per hectare

1. Complete a soil assessment and produce a written soil management plan
2. Test soil organic matter
3. Add organic matter to all land in the standard at least once during the 3-year agreement
4. Green cover on at least 70% of land in the standard over winter (Introductory level)

Green cover on at least 50% of land in this level of the standard over winter and multi- species cover crops on an additional 20% of the land (Intermediate level)

Improved grassland soils standard

Introductory level –
£28 per hectare

Intermediate level –
£58 per hectare

1. Complete a soil assessment and produce a written soil management plan
2. Test soil organic matter
3. Minimise bare ground – no more than 5% of the total area of land entered into the standard left bare over winter
4. n/a (Introductory level)

Establish or maintain herbal leys on at least 15% of land in this level of the standard (Intermediate level)

Moorland standard

Introductory level: £265 fixed per agreement per year plus
£10.30 per hectare

1. Identify and record the soil and vegetation types and condition, and presence of historic and archaeological features
2. Assess the public goods the moorland is already providing
3. Identify opportunities to maintain or enhance the public goods provided by the moorland

Annual health and welfare review vet visits

SFI will also provide help for livestock keepers with the costs of veterinary advice to improve animal health and welfare. Further details coming later in 2022.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT SFI AND OTHER FUNDING

You can find out more about SFI by going to GOV.UK and searching for 'Sustainable Farming Incentive Guidance' (www.gov.uk/defra/sustainablefarmingincentive) or scanning the QR code

The SFI is just one of the things farmers can get paid for. To find information about other funding that's available search "Funding for farmers" on GOV.UK.

If you have any questions about SFI, you can email us at ruralpayments@defra.gov.uk or telephone **03000 200 301** (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm, except bank holidays).

