



November 2021

Downs & Harbours update

Working with farmers to improve water & air quality

The Farming Investment Fund (FIF) is now open

Farmers, foresters, growers and contractors can now apply for funds towards substantial investments in equipment, technology or infrastructure that will help businesses prosper and improve productivity, whilst also enhancing the environment.

Similar to the superseded Countryside Productivity Scheme, the FIF scheme has been enhanced and expanded to include a list of items related to agriculture, horticulture and forestry. There are two separate pots of funds within FIF:

Smaller investments under **The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (£2,000- £25,000)**

Larger investments under **The Farming Transformation Fund (£35,000-£500,000)**

This newsletter gives an overview of each and with such a tight deadline, we encourage our readers to see if the funding may benefit you and your business.

As always, do get in touch if you have any questions.

Your local CSF Officer



Jade Hemsley
07554111182

jade.hemsley@naturalengland.org.uk

**Portsmouth Water Catchment
& Environment Team**



Beth Fairley & Simon Deacon
02392249248

catchment.managment@portsmouthwater.co.uk

The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF)...in a nutshell

- The minimum grant value has reduced to £2,000 and the maximum grant value has increased to £25,000.
- You can apply for a total of £50,000 over the scheme's duration, for example if there were two rounds you could apply for £25,000 in each round.
- Any funding received under the previous Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme won't count towards the £50,000 total.
- Farmers, horticulturalists, forestry owners and contractors to the industry are eligible to apply.
- The list of items that can be applied for has been reviewed and updated.

The eligible items list can be found [here](#) and include a screw press slurry separator, dribble bar, direct drills, electric fence packages, chemical free disinfection system and rainwater harvesting goods.

Applications Window ends 7th January 2022

The FETF scheme is divided into seven themes:

- **Horticulture -**
10 items 8 are new items
- **Forestry -**
11 items all new
- **Resource Management -**
23 items 10 are new
- **Precision and Analysis -**
12 items 2 are new
- **Livestock Handling and weighing equipment -**
27 items 1 new
- **Other Livestock equipment -**
26 items 3 are new
- **General -**
12 items 4 are new

Farming Transformation Fund (FTF)...in a nutshell

This fund provides grants towards large capital items to help business improve productivity, profitability and environmental sustainability. Initial focus is on **water management**, with grants available towards capital items to improve farm productivity through more efficient use of water for irrigation, and to secure water supplies for crop irrigation by constructing on-farm reservoirs and adopting irrigation application equipment.

The fund has reduced the maximum grant available to £500,000 (the minimum remains at £35,000) to enable them to ensure funding is available to support the widest number of farmers, whilst still being committed to supporting higher value projects which align to the fund's objectives. Applicants may undertake larger projects, but the grant ceiling will be £500,000.

Portsmouth Water is now in a water stressed area and with climate change and other environmental pressures, reducing abstraction sustainably is a key focus. We therefore support this fund and seek businesses in our catchment to take up this offer.

Visit funding for reservoirs: [The Farming Investment Fund launches today - Future Farming \(blog.gov.uk\)](#).

Applications Window ends 12th January 2022

FTF: Water Management

The grant can pay up to 40% of the costs for:

- constructing water storage reservoirs
- abstraction points, pumps and pipework to fill a reservoir
- irrigation pumps, controls, underground water distribution systems
- water meters
- best-practice application equipment such as boom or trickle irrigators
- sensors to optimise water application

Applicants need to firstly complete and submit an application for the scheme through the online checker. You can use the online checker to see if you are eligible to apply and how well your project fits the funding priorities. Projects having the best scores will then be invited to submit a full application by 30th June 2022. Visit [How to apply - Farming Transformation Fund Water Management grant manual - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) for more information.

Email contact details for Farming Investment Fund (FIF) questions:

Farming Equipment & Technology Fund (FETF): FETFenquiries@RPA.GOV.UK

Farming Transformation Fund (FTF): FTF@rpa.gov.uk

Upcoming Maize Workshop in January



Keep an eye out for further details on our Undersowing Maize Workshop in January - date TBC soon! We will be visiting our undersown maize trial field in East Hampshire and will have guest speakers including John Morgan from the Maize Growers Association, who will be discussing sustainable maize management – early varieties & undersowing lessons learnt plus a Q&A.

Full agenda and booking details to follow.

CSF works with farmers, organisations and catchment communities across England to improve the quality of air, water, and supports the use of nature-based solutions to improve sustainable water management.

Working together for a healthy environment

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is led by Natural England, in partnership with Defra and the Environment Agency.



Natural England take looking after your data as seriously as we take looking after the environment. For more information about how we handle your data visit gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming.