

Sustainable Agriculture Programme

New for 2026



Historic Years Exercise

To be able to apply for FSP in 2026, **businesses registered with the Department before 2022** must have met one or more of the historic activity requirements in 2020 or 2021, namely:

- have kept cattle or sheep or reared goats registered on APHIS;
- reared deer for meat and sold that meat commercially;
- have kept poultry registered with the Department as a commercial flock or pigs registered on APHIS, combined with selling grass (not including the sale of agistment grazing rights);
- have farmed at least three hectares of a determined area with an arable or horticultural crop specified in [Schedule 1](#) and declared in an application to the Department for either of those years; or
- have been a contract rearer with a contract in place which demonstrated that they managed the livestock and associated grassland, bore the risks in relation to the agricultural activity being carried out and obtained benefits from it.

Farm Sustainability Payment Information Sheet Entitlements

If your farm business has received a letter from DAERA stating that it has not met the historic years requirements it will **not be eligible to apply for FSP in 2026**. You must transfer your entitlements permanently by sale or gift by 15 May 2026 or they will expire.

You can only transfer your entitlements to an eligible farm business registered with the Department before 18 November 2025.

This restriction does not apply to the transfer of entitlements by actual inheritance.

If you leased your entitlements before 2025 **to an eligible farm business** for a period ending after the 2026 scheme year, your entitlements will expire at the end of the lease. Alternatively, you have the option to terminate the lease in 2026 and transfer your entitlements permanently to an eligible farm business by 15 May 2026.

If you leased your entitlements before 2025 **to an ineligible farm business** for a period ending after the 2026 scheme year, your entitlements **will expire on 16 May 2026**. Alternatively, you have the option to terminate the lease in 2026 and transfer your entitlements permanently to an eligible farm business by 15 May 2026.

NOTE: IMPORTANT CHANGE

Ineligible farm businesses will only be **exempt from applying for FSP in 2026**.

If your farm business meets the eligibility criteria for FSP and buys/leases in entitlements in 2027, your farm business can apply for FSP.



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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Entitlements

- The entitlement transfer window will open between 2 March and 15 May 2026.
- If your farm business has leased out all its entitlements in the years prior to 2026, you must act in 2026 to retain your entitlements.
- You must submit an eligible claim for FSP and activate at least 3 entitlements for payment in 2026.
- If you activate 3 entitlements in 2026, you can lease the remainder of your entitlements to an eligible farm business.
- The requirement to activate 3 entitlements is so that your farm business can establish FSP entitlements in 2026.

Find out more!

Visit the DAERA website for full guidance, updates, and support: www.daera-ni.gov.uk or scan the QR Code.



If your farm business has not received a letter about the historic years' requirements, it will be eligible to apply for FSP in 2026 if it meets the FSP eligibility criteria.

To retain all your entitlements under FSP you must submit an eligible claim for FSP and activate at least 3 entitlements for payment in 2026.

You must be actively farming and undertake agricultural activity to be eligible to apply for FSP. If your claim is for 5 hectares or more, you must carry out agricultural activity on at least 3 hectares of land used to activate entitlements. However, where you submit a claim of less than 5 hectares, you must carry out agricultural activity on at least 2 hectares of land used to activate entitlements.

If your farm business no longer claims subsidies and leases out all its entitlements each scheme year, **you will need to act in 2026.**

If you do not submit an eligible FSP application in 2026 and you leased your entitlements before 2025 **to an eligible farm business** for a period ending after the 2026 scheme year, your entitlements will expire at the end of the lease. Alternatively, you have the option to terminate the lease in 2026 and transfer your entitlements permanently to an eligible farm business by 15 May 2026.

If you are not actively farming and do not want to apply for FSP, you must transfer your entitlements permanently by sale or gift by 15 May 2026 or they will expire.

If you leased your entitlements **to an ineligible farm business** for a period ending after the 2026 scheme year, your entitlements will expire on 16 May 2026. Alternatively, you have the option to terminate the lease in 2026 and transfer the entitlements permanently to an eligible farm business by 15 May 2026.

(Entitlements leased to another farm business will be displayed on that business's entitlement register and are deemed to be held by that business on 15 May.)