

Sustainable Agriculture Programme

New for 2026

NEW

Conditionalities

There are **new conditionalities** included in the eligibility requirements for FSP. These are:

1. Participate in the **Soil Nutrient Health Scheme (SNHS) by 15 May 2027**:
 - you must have both registered and completed the training offered by CAFRE for SNHS by 15 May 2027.
2. Participate in the **Bovine Genetics Project** (if you keep bovine animals) by **15 May 2028**:
 - farm businesses keeping bovine animals must have registered and completed the training offered by CAFRE for bovine genetics by 15 May 2028.

Progressive capping

Progressive capping of FSP will apply to **payments above £60,000** and will be **phased in over 2026 and 2027**, with the **maximum payment in 2027 and beyond**, remaining at **£116,000**.

Penalties

A **flat rate penalty of 2 x** the difference between the area declared and the area determined will be applied from 2026.

Farm Sustainability Payment Information Sheet

Your Guide to the New Support Scheme for 2026

As part of the **Sustainable Agriculture Programme (SAP)**, the **Farm Sustainability Payment (FSP)** will replace the **Farm Sustainability Transition Payment (FSTP) for 2026**.

FSP will open for applications from **2 March 2026** until **9 June 2026**, with late penalties applied for applications received between **16 May - 9 June 2026**.

Are you FSP ready?

To be eligible for FSP, you must:

- Have a **DAERA Category 1 Business ID**.
- Activate at least **3 entitlements on 3 hectares** of eligible land at your disposal on **15 May 2026**.
- Have **management control** of any agricultural activity on land used to activate entitlements.
- Carry out **agricultural activity** on at least 3 hectares (or 2 hectares for those with claims less than 5 hectares) of land used to activate entitlements.
- Adhere to the **Farm Sustainability Standards (FSS1 to FSS7)**.
- Participate in the **Soil Nutrient Health Scheme** if offered by **15 May 2027**.
- Participate in the **Bovine Genetics Project** (if you keep bovine animals) if offered by **15 May 2028**.
- Meet the requirements of the **Historic Years Exercise (HYE)**.



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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Land Eligibility

There are new land eligibility rules for 2026. This leaflet provides a brief description of eligible and ineligible land.

For full details see the Guide to Land Eligibility on the DAERA webpage.

Historic Years Exercise (HYE)

To qualify for FSP in 2026, businesses must have met historic activity requirements in 2020 or 2021.

We will have written to you in **June 2025** if you have not met these requirements.

Ineligible businesses must permanently transfer their entitlements by **15 May 2026** to an eligible business or they will expire. These entitlements cannot be transferred to new businesses registered with DAERA from **18 November 2025**.

Visit the DAERA website for full guidance updates, and support <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/agricultural-environmental-schemes> or scan the QR Code.



Land Eligibility

There are changes to the Land Eligibility rules in 2026 which include:

- Eligible land must be mapped on **LPIS** and have a **DAERA recognised boundary**.
- Eligible land may include soft features (e.g. rush, bracken, scrub), blanket bogs, lowland raised bogs, and small woodland areas (<5 hectares).
- Land with less than or equal to **70% stones, scree, rock or scattered rock** is also eligible.

Ineligible land includes:

- Building sites, land used for solar panels, gardens, parks, golf courses and some other hard features and land uses.

See the **Guide to Land Eligibility** on the DAERA website for full details.

2026 Entitlements & Transfers

- **The entitlement trading window will open on 2 March 2026 until 15 May 2026.**
- You must **activate at least 3 entitlements** in 2026 to receive payment under FSP.
- The **two-year confiscation rule** resets from the start of FSP.
- Businesses **not eligible** for FSP in 2026 **must sell/gift their entitlements by 15 May 2026 or they will expire on 16 May 2026.**
- Transfers from **HYE-ineligible businesses to new businesses** (established on or after 18th November 2025) are **not allowed in 2026.**
- **Penalties - Late field and non-declaration penalties have been removed from FSP.**