



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



# WINTER UPDATE 2022





**Please note that the information in the Winter Update was accurate and up to date up until the date of publishing on 18 November 2022.**

**For up to date news and information please visit the Welsh Government website:  
[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)**

# USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Addington Fund	01926 620 135
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)	0300 303 8268
Badger Found Dead Survey	0808 169 5110
British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS)	0345 050 3456
Control of Agriculture Pollution Regulation Helpline operated by ADAS	01974 847 000
DPJ Foundation	0800 587 4262
EID Cymru	01970 636 959
Farming Connect	08456 000 813
Farming Community Network (FCN)	03000 111 999
Lantra Wales	01982 552 646
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	0300 065 3000
Quality Welsh Food Certification Body	01970 636 688
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)	0800 188 4444
Rural Payment Wales Customer Contact Centre	0300 062 5004
TB Helpline	0800 496 1439
Tir Dewi	0800 121 4722

# CONTENTS

RPW Online	2
Sustainable Farming Scheme	5
Woodland Schemes	6
Agricultural Support Schemes	9
Ammonia (NH3) Emissions Wales	11
Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations	13
Agricultural Minimum Wage	14
EIDCymru	16
Wales Farm Safety Partnership	19
Animal Health and Welfare	21
Heather and Grass Burning	27
Flooding	28
Farming Connect	30
Mentor Venture Programme	31
Wales Rural Network Support Unit (WRNSU)	32
Where can I get help?	33





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## RPW Customer Satisfaction Survey

RPW received almost 1,600 responses and are currently reviewing the results and comments received. These will be used to identify any improvements that could be made as we prepare and design the future Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS).

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## BPS 2022 payments

Advance payments worth up to 70% of the anticipated final BPS 2022 claim value have been paid to customers where it was possible to confirm claim eligibility and all necessary Supporting Documents had been received in time to make the payment. There may be reasons why a BPS Advance Payment has not been made, for example, due to an ongoing land dispute, breaches identified at inspection or outstanding probate matters.

Subject to completion of the full validation, BPS 2022 balance payments, or full payments for those who have not received an advance payment, will commence from 15 December 2022.





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## **Increase in BPS entitlement values**

BPS 2022 entitlements have increased in value to take account of unclaimed entitlements and the unallocated National Reserve budget in 2022.

Customers will see this increase reflected in the Entitlements Statement of their 2022 payment letters.

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## **Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) Transfer of Entitlements guidance**

The transfer notification facility for 2023 entitlements is now available on RPW Online. RPW must be notified by 15 May 2023 in order for the recipient to make a claim on entitlements they are receiving for the 2023 BPS scheme year.

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## **Glastir Contracts**

Eligible Glastir Advanced, Glastir Commons and Glastir Organic contract holders whose contract is due to end on the 31 December 2022 will be offered extensions. Recipients will need to read the contract as it may contain some changes and will have up to the 31st December 2022 to accept the offer. If you are a contract holder, please check your RPW Online accounts regularly.

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## **Are you using Manage My CPH yet?**

Over 56% of existing registered keepers have now transitioned their CPH and are now benefiting from the 10 mile rule and functionality of Manage My CPH via RPW Online. Over 28,000 inactive CPH records have been closed.

Information on how to use Manage My CPH can be found on our website:

[www.gov.wales/are-you-using-manage-my-cph-yet](http://www.gov.wales/are-you-using-manage-my-cph-yet)



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## Cross Compliance

You should regularly check and review the Cross Compliance regulations to ensure you continue to meet all requirements. Copies of the Cross Compliance farmer fact sheets and Verifiable Standards are available on the Welsh Government website: [www.gov.wales/cross-compliance](http://www.gov.wales/cross-compliance)

The Cross Compliance regulations are reviewed annually and updated documentation including new requirements for 2023 will be published before the end of the year.

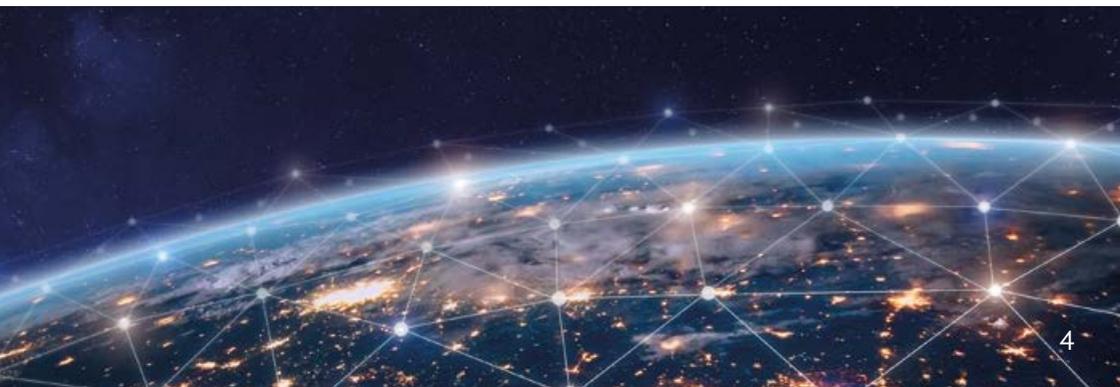
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## Access Broadband Cymru grant scheme

You may be eligible for funding towards the installation of a broadband connection for your home or business. Please note, it does not include monthly rental costs. [www.gov.wales/access-broadband-cymru-grant-scheme](http://www.gov.wales/access-broadband-cymru-grant-scheme)

## Earth Observation technologies

The Welsh Government will begin using Earth Observation, in addition to existing Remote Sensing technologies, to monitor future land use across Wales. These Earth Observations can provide Welsh Government with information to monitor land use, including land cover, cultivation and some land use changes across Wales on a regular basis. This new approach will initially support the delivery, compliance and control of schemes during the Prepare and Pilot period (2022), such as the Growing for the Environment Scheme.



# SUSTAINABLE FARMING SCHEME



## About the Sustainable Farming Scheme

Since publishing 'Sustainable Farming Scheme: Outline Proposals for 2025' in July we have been engaging with farmers across Wales and promoting the co-design programme to encourage farmers to feed back their views on the SFS proposals. The co-design programme has now closed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many farmers and stakeholders who have taken the time to feed into the co-design process over the last few months.

We will use the findings of the co-design process to develop the scheme proposals and a further consultation on final scheme design will be published in 2023 in preparation for the scheme to commence in 2025.

## The Agriculture (Wales) Bill

On 26 September 2022, the first Agriculture (Wales Bill) was introduced to the Senedd and is now proceeding through formal scrutiny. The Bill establishes Sustainable Land Management as the legislative framework for future agricultural policy, including underpinning the Sustainable Farming Scheme. This 'made in Wales' policy framework focusses on the complementary objectives of supporting farmers to produce food sustainably, alongside taking action to respond to the climate and nature emergencies, contributing to thriving rural communities and keeping farmers on the land.





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## £32 million committed to Woodland Creation

We have committed £32 million over the next three years to a new and innovative woodland creation offer for farmers and landowners.

These schemes are in place as we transition to the Sustainable Farming Scheme and applying now will not disadvantage farmers or landowners. In fact Woodland created now will contribute to the proposed universal action of farmers having at least 10% tree cover on their land.

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## Small Grants – Woodland Creation Scheme

This scheme has been developed as a quick and easy process for farmers and landowners wishing to plant less than 2 hectares of trees on land which is:

- agriculturally improved, or
- of low environmental value

Key features include:

- no need for a verified woodland creation plan
- no loss of Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)
- fencing at an increased rate of £5.56/metre
- 12 years of maintenance and premium payments

Funding can cover:

- tree planting, fencing and gates
- planting for shelterwoods, alongside watercourses and in field corners/small fields
- planting for various uses, for example stock shelter, biodiversity and wood-fuel

There will be several windows through the year. For more information please visit: [www.gov.wales/small-grants-woodland-creation](http://www.gov.wales/small-grants-woodland-creation)



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## Woodland Creation Planning Scheme

To support landowners looking to create areas of woodland, and who may want to apply for funding we have set up the Woodland Creation Planning scheme.

This scheme provides funding of between £1,000 and £5,000 for:

- professional advice from a Registered Woodland Planner
- development of a woodland creation plan which is UKS compliant
- additional surveys, such as for priority habitats or bird surveys

A Woodland Creation Plan will:

- help create well designed woodlands to achieve individual objectives
- enable a smoother and more flexible application process to schemes such as the Woodland Creation Grant
- support licence applications such as EIA's

Applications can be made at any time in the year, subject to budget availability.

For more information please visit:

[www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme](http://www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme)

For more information on any of these schemes please contact

[polisicoedwigaeth.forestrypolicy@gov.wales](mailto:polisicoedwigaeth.forestrypolicy@gov.wales)





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## Woodland Creation Grant

For those interested in creating larger areas of woodland, the Woodland Creation grant will be the best route.

This scheme offers funding for:

- tree planting, fencing and gates
- fencing at an increased rate of £5.56/metre
- maintenance and premium payments for 12 years
- no loss of the Basic Payment Scheme
- a more consistent offer available throughout the year

Funding is available for a Woodland Creation Plan which is required in advance of submitting an application through the Woodland Creation Planning Scheme.

There will be several windows through the year. For more information please visit: [www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-grant](http://www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-grant)





## Rural Development Schemes Key Dates

Details of all guidance documents for the Agricultural Support Schemes can be found on our website shortly before the round becomes available to apply.

[www.gov.wales/rural-grants-payments](http://www.gov.wales/rural-grants-payments)

Scheme	Opening Date	Closing Date
Horticulture Development	5 December 2022	10 March 2023
Small Grants – Environment (New Hedgerows)	9 January 2023	17 February 2023
Small Grants – Efficiency	16 January 2023	24 February 2023
Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up	11 April 2023	20 May 2023
Small Grants – Environment (Carbon)	22 May 2023	30 June 2023
Small Grants – Yard Coverings	26 June 2023	4 August 2023

## Horticulture Development Scheme

The Horticulture Development scheme is a Capital grant scheme available to existing commercial horticultural producers across Wales to support them to develop their businesses through investment in new equipment and technology; sustainably expand production via diversifying into new crops, improve production efficiency/enhance product quality; and enable producers to enter new markets.

The maximum grant award is **£50,000** and the minimum is **£3,000** and will provide a maximum contribution of 40% towards capital investments in equipment and machinery.



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## Small Grants – Environment

The Small Grants – Environment is a standalone scheme providing a maximum of **£7,500** funding per window for Capital Works Projects that support the delivery of beneficial environmental outcomes.

The theme for the first window in 2023 will be **new hedgerows**. A further application window of Small Grants – Environment scheme under the theme Carbon will open in May 2023.

## Small Grants – Efficiency

The Small Grants – Efficiency scheme is a capital scheme designed to help farmers in Wales to improve the technical, financial and environmental performance of their farm businesses.

The maximum grant award is **£12,000** and the minimum is **£1,000**.

The grant provides a maximum 40% contribution towards capital investments in equipment and machinery.

## Small Grants – Yard Coverings

The Small Grants – Yard Coverings scheme is a capital scheme designed to support farmers in Wales to improve on-farm nutrient management by investing in existing on-farm infrastructure. Support is provided to separate rainwater and slurry from areas such as livestock feeding and gathering areas, manure storage areas and slurry/silage stores.

The maximum grant award is **£12,000** and the minimum is **£3,000**.

The grant provides a maximum 40% contribution towards standard costed capital investments.

## Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up

The Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up scheme is designed to support entry into the horticulture sector in Wales by encouraging the establishment of new commercial horticulture enterprises, either as a diversification within an existing agricultural business, or as stand-alone new enterprises.

The grant available for each application will be **£3,000** and can be used to encourage the use of new and emerging technology, provide opportunities to create a diversified income stream for existing Welsh farm businesses, establish new rural enterprises and create employment opportunities.

# AMMONIA (NH<sub>3</sub>) EMISSIONS IN WALES



## What is ammonia and why it is an issue?

Ammonia is a toxic, highly reactive and soluble colourless gas with a pungent urine odour. It is one of the major poisonous slurry gases which have been affecting the health of livestock farmers for generations. When it reacts with the atmosphere and is breathed in, it damages the respiratory and cardiovascular systems in people and animals.

## Where does it come from?

Ammonia, or NH<sub>3</sub> is made of H (hydrogen) and N (nitrogen). Manures and fertilisers contain nitrogen and are used to improve crop growth.

Not all the nitrogen is taken up by plants. Large amounts of it (around 50%) are lost to the environment as a pollutant.

Liquid nitrogen from slurry can evaporate as ammonia gas before it could reach plants. Fertilisers can also lose their nitrogen and produce ammonia gas which pollutes the air. Bacterial chemical conversion processes in the soil lead to nitrogen being drained into waterways and polluting them.





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## Pollution trends

Wales is bound by international and national law to reduce its ammonia emissions.

The National Emission Ceilings Regulations 2018 sets a target for a reduction of ammonia emissions of 16% by 2030 compared to 2005 emissions levels. Unfortunately, ammonia emissions in Wales have increased by 8% since 2005.

91–92% of ammonia emissions in Wales come from agriculture. The biggest polluting sector in Wales is cattle: cattle manure management (livestock housing, manure storage and outdoor concrete yards) and its land application make 70% of all NH<sub>3</sub> emissions.

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## What can you do?

In 2019, the Code of Good Agricultural Practice guidance on reducing ammonia losses from agriculture in Wales was introduced to help Welsh farmers understand how they can improve air quality. The code explains how changes in livestock diets, housing, slurry and manure storage, slurry application and urea fertilisers can reduce agricultural ammonia emissions.

More information is available on the Farming Connect website to show which areas on the farm can be improved and how. Visit the website [www.businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/improving-air-quality](http://www.businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/improving-air-quality) or contact the Farming Connect Service Centre 08456000813 or your Local Development Officer for more information.



# CONTROL OF AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION REGULATIONS



On 5 October the Welsh Government published a Written Statement arising from discussions under the co-operation agreement with Plaid Cymru. This set out a short extension to the implementation date of one of the provisions of the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

Welsh Government will extend the implementation of the annual holding nitrogen limit of 170 kg per hectare from livestock manure from 1 January 2023 to April 2023. Other 1 January measures are not affected.

This extension will be accompanied by a consultation about proposals for a new temporary provision for qualifying farm businesses to apply for a licence to help them manage the transition to the annual holding limit of 170 kg per hectare. The consultation will be available on the Welsh Government website at [www.gov.wales/consultations](http://www.gov.wales/consultations).

All other measures are unchanged. This means, from 1 January 2023, the remaining phase two measures will apply and include requirements around risk maps, nutrient management planning and storage of farmyard manures.

There is detailed guidance and a Frequently Asked Questions document available on the Welsh Government website at [www.gov.wales/land-management](http://www.gov.wales/land-management). A digital workbook is also available to help with Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) requirements.

We know every farm is different, it is important you understand how these changes may affect the management of your holding and if you need to take any action to meet the requirements of the regulations.

To support the roll-out of these regulations the Welsh Government has a range of resources available.

The Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations Helpline - **01974 847000** – is a dedicated technical helpline to support farmers through the introduction of the regulations on an individual farm basis.

Farming Connect has a wide range of resources, more information is available at [www.gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect)

# AGRICULTURAL MINIMUM WAGE



**Did you know all employed agricultural, horticultural and forestry workers in Wales, including workers employed by gang masters and employment agencies, are entitled to at least the Agricultural Minimum Wage?**

The minimum hourly rate depends on the workers age, grade and whether they are an apprentice. It may be higher than the National Minimum Wage.

Agricultural workers are also entitled to different employment rights in relation to holiday, agricultural sick pay, overtime and allowances.

The current minimum rates of pay are:

Grade		£ per hour
<b>Grade A</b>	<b>Agricultural Development Worker</b>	
	16–17 years	£4.81
	18–20 years	£6.83
	21–22 years	£9.18
	23+ years	£9.50
<b>Grade B</b>	<b>Agricultural Worker</b>	
	16–17 years	£4.81
	18–20 years	£6.83
	21–22 years	£9.18
	23+ years	£9.79
<b>Grade C</b>	Advanced Agricultural Worker	£10.08
<b>Grade D</b>	Senior Agricultural Worker	£11.06
<b>Grade E</b>	Agricultural Manager	£12.13



<b>Apprentice Year 1</b>	<b>£4.81</b>
<b>Apprentice Year 2 and beyond</b>	
Under 19 years	£4.81
19–20 years	£6.83
21–22 years	£9.18
23+ years	£9.50

Detailed guidance on grades, rates and allowances, as well employment terms and conditions can be found at [www.gov.wales/agricultural-wages](http://www.gov.wales/agricultural-wages)

The minimum rates are recommended by the independent Agricultural Advisory Panel and normally change on 1 April each year.

If you are an agricultural worker and you believe you are not receiving the correct Agricultural Minimum Wage rate, or any of the other terms set out in the Order, you should speak to your employer in the first instance. In doing so, you can ask for copies of your pay records.

If this does not solve the problem, you can contact Welsh Government:

Email: [SLMEnquiries@gov.wales](mailto:SLMEnquiries@gov.wales)

Post: Agricultural Minimum Wage Team,  
Welsh Government,  
County Hall,  
Llandrindod Wells,  
Powys  
LD1 5LG.

Phone: **0300 060 4400**



EIDCymru is being developed into the new Welsh multispecies livestock traceability system and service. The development of EIDCymru into a multispecies traceability system is complex and involves many outside dependencies that have delayed progress. Here we provide an update of where we are at with the development of the systems relating to the different species that will all, in time, be part of EIDCymru.

## Sheep, Goat and Deer System (Phase 1)

The Welsh Government provides sheep, goat and deer movement reporting in Wales through EIDCymru. Phase 1 to update the current system was completed in December 2021 for sheep, goats and deer to give keepers a better user experience. Have you taken a look?

To register or log on, go to [www.eidcymru.org](http://www.eidcymru.org) or if you need any help, please call **01970 636959** (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm).

The screenshot shows the EIDCymru website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'My dashboard', 'My account', 'My inventory', 'Help and information', 'Contact us', and 'Log out'. Below this, the main content area is divided into sections. The 'Create a movement' section has two buttons: 'Set up >' (green) and 'Report >' (light green). The 'Accept movements' section has three buttons: '4 Accept movements >' (red), 'Future and draft movements' (blue), and 'Movement records' (dark grey). Two green arrows point from the 'Accept movements' section towards two green callout boxes. The first callout box asks: 'Why not try accepting a movement from a market online instead of sending the paper copy into EIDCymru?'. The second callout box asks: 'Have you seen your Movement Records on your online account? This can be checked against your flock register to make sure all movements have been recorded.'



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## **Cattle Registration and Movement Reporting System (Phase 2)**

Phase 2 is now underway, and this is developing the EIDCymru system and service to incorporate all cattle registration and movement reporting. This will involve the transition from British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) including the Cattle Tracing System (CTS), who currently provide this service for cattle registration and movement reporting, to EIDCymru for all Welsh keepers and premises handling cattle in Wales.

It was anticipated that cattle registration and movement reporting would have been rolled out on EIDCymru in 2022, but to provide a robust reporting system and service requires more time. We are unable to say when EIDCymru is likely to roll out for cattle functionalities, but we will be engaging with farmers and the wider industry over the coming months to involve stakeholders in the development of the new system and service.

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## **Pig Movements (Phase 3)**

We will start on phase 3, to develop EIDCymru to incorporate the reporting of all pig movements in Wales and to transition away from the current eAML2 service, run by AHDB. As soon as Phase 2 has been completed.





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## Annual Sheep Inventory

All sheep keepers are required to complete an annual inventory of all sheep on your holding on 1 January so why not complete your Annual Inventory online by logging into your EIDCymru account on: [www.eidcymru.org](http://www.eidcymru.org)

\* Please note this option will not appear on your EIDCymru account until 1 January 2023

The deadline for returning your inventory is 1 February 2023 and if you are completing your inventory electronically, there is no need to return a paper form.

For those of you who submit your inventory using the paper form, your annual inventory packs should arrive by late December.

If you require any assistance, please call EIDCymru on **01970 636959**.

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## Electronic Tags for Cattle (Bovine EID)

It had been hoped that the introduction of Bovine EID in Wales would be aligned with the launch of cattle on EIDCymru but at present, we do not expect for official Bovine EID tags to be available on the market until 2024/2025 at the earliest. Tag specifications for Bovine EID tags have not been agreed and the next step is to conduct a trial to pilot a range of tag options on a selection of farms, markets and abattoirs.

We will keep you updated on progress made for the introduction of Bovine EID, as it happens and this information will be included in the future editions of the Gwlad e-newsletter and shared with industry groups. In the meantime, we recommend keepers only order the number of conventional tags they require to cover the births of calves expected for the year ahead.



## **WALES FARM SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**



# **Handling livestock**

Every year, many of the deaths on farms happen because farmers become complacent and do not take precautions to make sure they are protected against livestock.



When you are working with livestock think about what increases the risks

1. Select and use well designed handling facilities in the yard, buildings and field. Keep them maintained.
2. Always assess the need for help before beginning the task.
3. Familiarise yourself with the handling area and the equipment that is being used.
4. Never enter an enclosure with a loose bull or when an unrestrained cow is with a calf.
5. Wherever possible separate livestock from the public and select fields without rights of way when cattle have calves at foot.
6. Work calmly with the cattle, with a minimum of shouting, impatience and unnecessary force.
7. Be aware of the dangers when handling cattle.

**NEVER ASSUME ANIMALS ARE GOING TO DO WHAT YOU EXPECT THEM TO DO**

[www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture)



@farmsafetywales



Diogelwch ffrem Cymru- Farm Safety Wales



## **Bovine TB testers in Wales**

A new project is underway to boost the number of bovine TB testers in Wales and support the veterinary profession, Rural Affairs Minister Lesley Griffiths has announced.

It comes after the Welsh Government commissioned research in November 2021 to review options to supplement the delivery of TB testing through greater use of appropriately trained paraprofessionals.

The report was supportive of exploring the greater use of lay TB testers and the Welsh Government has been engaging with Veterinary Delivery Partners and the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) to implement a pilot project in Wales.

This commenced on 1 October and the Veterinary Delivery Partners will be raising awareness amongst veterinary practices to recruit participants on a voluntary basis. They will engage with all interested Official Veterinary practices in each Veterinary Delivery Partners area to implement the use of paraprofessional staff for bovine TB skin testing.

The pilot project will explore some of the implications and test the practical considerations of the use of paraprofessional staff in TB testing. An independent evaluation will run alongside this including assessing the feasibility of rolling out the scheme further in the future.

The estimated number of practises which will take on at least one lay TB tester as part of the pilot project is expected to be between 30–35 across Wales.





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## Protect Your Birds from Avian Flu This Winter

Since October 2021, the UK has been experiencing its largest outbreak of avian influenza (AI) ever. This winter, it's vital we all do what we can to protect our birds and the wider national flock.

The highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAI) H5N1 has been the predominant strain circulating in the UK, since last October. This particular strain is considered to pose a very low risk to public health and food safety.

Biosecurity is the absolute best defence against AI and good biosecurity practices should be in place all year round, to prevent contact with wild birds and protect kept birds. Guidance on how to implement high biosecurity standards is available on our website at:

[www.gov.wales/biosecurity-and-preventing-disease-captive-birds](http://www.gov.wales/biosecurity-and-preventing-disease-captive-birds)

Besides implementing and maintaining high standards of biosecurity, there are several other ways you can protect your own and other's birds:

- Be vigilant for signs of disease in your birds, which could include neurological signs such as shaking or lack of coordination, decreased eating or drinking, falling egg production, or breathing difficulties. Suspicion of AI must be immediately reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) by phoning **0300 303 8268**.
- Report any dead wild bird findings to the Defra helpline on **03459 335577**, so we can monitor the presence and spread of disease. Visit [www.gov.wales/report-and-dispose-dead-birds](http://www.gov.wales/report-and-dispose-dead-birds) for more information.
- Register your birds with APHA. If you keep 50 or more birds, this is a legal requirement, however, all bird keepers are advised to do so. Those who register will be contacted directly with information and advice in the event of a disease outbreak. Search 'poultry registration' on gov.uk for more information.

Please visit our avian influenza webpages this winter at [www.gov.wales/birdflu](http://www.gov.wales/birdflu) to follow the latest developments.

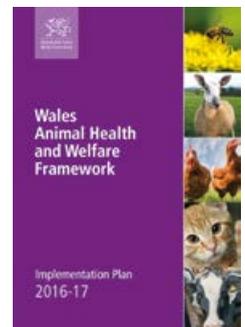


## Promoting the work of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group was established in 2014. Its main purpose is to support the implementation of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework.

Notable recent achievements by the Group, which has allowed the Welsh Government to make significant progress in its 'One Health, One Welfare, One Wales' approach have included:

- [For the first time], the inclusion of key animal welfare commitments in the latest Programme for Government, embedded in a five-year Animal Welfare Plan for Wales;





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- The publication of a five-year plan to tackle Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR); and
  - Contributing to the development of new policy to control Bovine TB.

The Group is keen to identify new and meaningful ways of communicating its ongoing achievements, and providing a method for stakeholders to raise awareness of issues that are affecting them. To share your suggestions on how this could be achieved, please email the Group Secretariat:

[WAHFG@gov.wales](mailto:WAHFG@gov.wales)

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## African Swine Fever

**Strict new controls restricting the movement of pork and pork products into Great Britain to help safeguard Britain's pigs from the threat of African swine fever (ASF) have been brought into force on 1 September 2022.**

African swine fever poses no risk to human health but is a highly contagious disease for pigs and wild boar. In recent months it has been spreading in mainland Europe leading to the deaths of thousands of pigs and causing significant disruption to the meat trade. With no vaccine available, the disease poses a significant risk to our domestic pig herd and our long-term ability to export pork and other pork products around the globe.

The new control will strengthen the requirements for bringing pork and pork products into Great Britain from the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association states. It will no longer be legal to bring pork or pork products weighing over two kilograms, unless they are produced to the EU's commercial standards. This does not apply to commercial imports, which remain unaffected by the control.



This action comes following the publication of a new risk assessment, conducted by the Animal and Plant Health Agency, which recognises that the chance that the ASF virus may be brought into Great Britain stands at 'medium risk'. It found that the most likely way the virus could be introduced to Great Britain is by a member of the public bringing pork or pork products back from an ASF-affected country. This measure will help limit possibly infected pig meat being brought into Great Britain through various means, such as in passengers' luggage or in vehicles or illegal trade.

[www.gov.uk/government/news/strict-new-controls-on-pork-and-pork-products-to-protect-britains-pig-sector-against-african-swine-fever](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/strict-new-controls-on-pork-and-pork-products-to-protect-britains-pig-sector-against-african-swine-fever)





## Heather and Grass Burning – Plan Ahead, Stay in Control, Do it Safely

Burning is used as a land management tool to control heather, rough grass, gorse, bracken and other shrub species. A number of burns carried out by farmers during the dry spring in 2022 resulted in loss of control leading to environmental damage and additional strain on the fire and rescue service at a critical time. Done properly, in a planned and controlled way, it can be beneficial for agriculture, wildlife conservation and the wider environment.

Burning should be carried out under controlled conditions and within the permitted periods. Burning is only allowed during the following periods:

- 1 October to 31 March in the uplands
- 1 November to 15 March elsewhere

Opportunities for burning can often be limited by unsuitable weather conditions. It is sensible therefore to plan ahead so that when favourable conditions present themselves, everything is in place to ensure a safe and manageable controlled burn. Also consider mowing as an alternative to burning, but only where it is safe to do so and where the vegetation and soil will not be damaged by machinery.

To help you plan ahead, stay in control and do it safely a Burning Management Plan must be produced and followed for all proposed burns. Plans do not have to be submitted but an up-to-date copy must be available for inspection on request.

The Heather and Grass Burning Code for Wales provides advice on best practice. The Code, along with the Burning Management Plan template, is available on the Welsh Government website at: [www.gov.wales/heather-grass-burning](http://www.gov.wales/heather-grass-burning)





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## Prepare for flooding

Although we've experienced drought and dry weather this year, flooding can still happen. Take steps to prepare for flooding before bad weather arrives.

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## Find out if you're at risk of flooding

Check your flood risk **by postcode**: [www.naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-your-flood-risk-by-postcode](http://www.naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-your-flood-risk-by-postcode) to find out the risk of flooding in your area or call Natural Resources Wales **0300 065 3000** to request a hard copy.

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## Check flood warnings and alerts

Natural Resources Wales provide a flood warning service to many areas at risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea. There are three types of warning that could be issued:

- A Flood Alert when we expect flooding of low-lying land, farmland, minor roads and car parks
- A Flood Warning when we expect flooding of homes and businesses
- A Severe Flood Warning when there is a significant risk to life or significant disruption to the community

Sign up for free flood warnings at [www.naturalresources.wales/flooding](http://www.naturalresources.wales/flooding) or call Floodline **0345 988 1188**.

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## Create a flood plan

You may already have an accident or emergency plan that could be adapted or create a **flood plan**:

[www.naturalresources.wales/flooding/preparing-for-a-flood](http://www.naturalresources.wales/flooding/preparing-for-a-flood)

Share with employees, including contractors, so everyone knows what actions need to be taken and by whom during an emergency.

For example, where to move livestock, machinery, hazardous substances or those that can contaminate floodwater like milk or animal feed.



## Reduce the risk or impact of flooding

Consider if you can adopt practices to reduce the risk or impact of flooding on your land, as part of your **farming practice**:

[www.naturalresources.wales/flooding/preparing-for-a-flood](http://www.naturalresources.wales/flooding/preparing-for-a-flood)

For example, reducing soil compaction can increase the amount of water than soaks into the ground and slow the flow of water. To do this you could:

- Avoid using machinery on wet soils
- Regularly move livestock
- Plant a diverse grassland with deep rooted species

You should also be aware that it is a **legal requirement** ([www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2021/77/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2021/77/contents/made)) that organic manure heaps are **not** located on land that is liable to flooding.

More information about preparing for flooding, what to do in a flood and what to do after a flood is available at [www.naturalresources.wales/flooding](http://www.naturalresources.wales/flooding) or call Floodline **0345 988 1188**.

You can report a flood or risk of flooding online or call our 24/7 incident line **0300 065 3000**.



## FREE online learning...short term effort...long term results

Farming Connect's wide range of e-learning topics will give you the up-to-date knowledge and skills you need.

**FREE** to all registered individuals, our e-learning topics are broadly categorised under 'land', 'livestock' and 'business'. Modules available include:

- Animal health and husbandry (beef, dairy, sheep, poultry, pigs etc)
- Grassland, habitat and woodland management
- Business, financial and people management
- Sustainable agriculture and horticulture topics including organic systems
- Control of agri-pollution, carbon reduction and climate change
- Diversification-related topics



Visit [gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://gov.wales/farmingconnect) to see the full list of 100 plus e-learning modules.

- ✓ Short online modules – most are about 20-30 minutes long - which you can revisit at any time
- ✓ Learn how to tackle everyday tasks more efficiently, more sustainably and more profitably
- ✓ Receive your Farming Connect 'module completed' certificate
- ✓ Check out your updated 'Storfa Sgiliau' online record, which will include all your Farming Connect achievements

### GET YOUR E-LEARNING JOURNEY STARTED

Before you can complete an e-learning module, you need to...

- Be registered with Farming Connect with your own individual email contact which must be unique to you.
- To register, contact the Farming Connect Service Centre on **08456 000 813** or visit [gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://gov.wales/farmingconnect)
- Receive a registration confirmation email from Farming Connect, which enables you to access the Business Wales (BOSS) website via Sign on Cymru (SOC).

*If you need any further information or help with accessing BOSS, call your local Farming Connect development officer.*



## Would you like to slow down or take a step back from the industry and provide an opportunity to new entrants?

Why not consider a joint venture?



The Venture programme is designed to match farmers and landowners who are looking to step back from the industry with new entrants looking for a way into farming

By working closely with both sides we are supporting them to establish a joint farming venture, which enables the older farmer to remain involved in the business while giving the young farmer an opportunity to gain experience and develop skills.

The programme offers a matching service in order to find a suitable business partner and guides both sides,

through every stage, including business planning and legal advice, to tailor a suitable structure that meets the needs of both sides.

Setting up a joint venture can also offer a solution for farming families who have a clear successor, but also other family members such as siblings who are interested in the assets too. The initiative can be designed to give the young farmer the opportunity to build up capital over time, which would put them in a stronger position to reach a financial agreement with the other siblings in the future.

If you think Venture might be the answer for you but you need more information, contact one of the Venture officers for an informal chat to discuss your situation.

### NORTH WALES OFFICER

Gwydion Owen,

07498 055 416 - [gwydion.owen@menterabusnes.co.uk](mailto:gwydion.owen@menterabusnes.co.uk)

### SOUTH WALES OFFICER

Delyth Jones

07985 155 670 - [delyth.jones@menterabusnes.co.uk](mailto:delyth.jones@menterabusnes.co.uk)



**FARMING**  
connect  
cyswllt  
**FFERMIO**  
08456 000 813

# WALES RURAL NETWORK SUPPORT UNIT (WRNSU)



The role of the WRNSU is to facilitate the networking process and the engagement of stakeholders. It uses several media platforms to share information, best practice and expertise across Wales, UK and Europe.

As the EU RDP Programme starts to draw to a close, we have added a new content area for the website called Rural Programmes with current available grants designed to ensure that there is continuity of support for important actions previously funded through the EU Rural Development Programme. Also, a page to keep you updated on the development of the new programme.

Further details will be available through the following channels listed below.



[facebook.com/WalesRuralNet](https://facebook.com/WalesRuralNet)



[@RGC\\_WRN](https://twitter.com/RGC_WRN)



[ruralnetwork@gov.wales](mailto:ruralnetwork@gov.wales)



[businesswales.gov.wales/  
walesruralnetwork](https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork)



[businesswales.gov.wales/  
walesruralnetwork/  
wrn-support-unit/newsletter](https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/newsletter)

Connect with the Wales Rural Network for more information about RDP projects, case studies and the latest news.



## FarmWell Wales

[www.farmwell.wales](http://www.farmwell.wales)

## Mind Cymru

0300 123 3393  
[info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk)

## Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

0800 188 4444  
[help@rabi.org.uk](mailto:help@rabi.org.uk)

## The Farming Community Network

03000 111 999  
[help@fcn.org.uk](mailto:help@fcn.org.uk)

## Tir Dewi

0800 1214722  
[mail@tirdewi.co.uk](mailto:mail@tirdewi.co.uk)

**Where  
can I get  
help?**

**Get in touch  
with us**

## The Addington Fund

01926 620135

## The DPJ Foundation

0800 5874262

## Farming Connect

08456 000813

## Rural Payments Wales Customer Contact Centre

0300 0625004

## Farm Liaison Service

0300 0255449  
[farmliaisonservice@gov.wales](mailto:farmliaisonservice@gov.wales)