

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)

0808 169 5110

Control of Agriculture Pollution Regulation Helpline operated by ADAS 01974 847 000

DPJ Foundation 0800 587 4262

EID Cymru 01970 636 959

Farming Connect 03456 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 44444

RPW Customer Contact Centre 0300 062 5004

TB Helpline 0800 496 1439

Tir Dewi 0800 121 4722

Samaritans 116 123

KEY DATES 2024

04 MARCH	Small Grant Woodland Creation EOI Window 1 opens Woodland Creation Grant opens
06	Small Grants Efficiency EOI
MARCH	Window opens
16	Small Grants Efficiency
APRIL	EOI Window closes
19	Small Grant Woodland
APRIL	Creation EOI Window 1 closes
15 MAY	Closing date for receipt of Single Application Form (SAF) 2024 without penalty
20	Small Grants Environment
MAY	EOI Window opens
3	Growing for the Environment
JUNE	Autumn Sowing Window opens
10	Closing date for receipt of SAF
JUNE	2024 subject to late penalties
28	Small Grants Environment
JUNE	EOI Window closes
12	Growing for the Environment
JULY	Autumn Sowing Window closes
22 NOV	Woodland Creation Grant closes

Please note that the information in the Spring Update was accurate and up to date up until the date of publishing on 18 March 2024. For the latest date news and information please visit the Welsh Government website: gov.wales.

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WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

RURAL PAYMENTS WALES

Single Application Form (SAF) 2024

The 2024 SAF Rules Booklet is available on the Welsh Government website. Customers should read the Rules Booklet before completing and submitting the SAF 2024.

gov.wales/single-application-formsaf-2024-rules-booklet

The online SAF became available on Rural Payments Wales (RPW) Online on 4 March 2024. The last date for submission without penalty is Monday 15 May 2024, although late applications can be submitted up to and including Monday 10 June 2024, subject to late claim penalties. No applications can be submitted or accepted after 10 June 2024.

Customers are encouraged to complete their SAF as soon as possible. They can contact the Customer Contact Centre using their RPW Online account or on **0300 062 5004**, if they have any questions.

Alternatively, the Farm Liaison Service (FLS) is available to provide support and guidance on the SAF or schemes. FLS contact details are available on the Welsh Government website.

gov.wales/contact-farm-liaisonservice.

Do you have a temporary CPH (tCPH)?

Temporary CPH's (tCPH) are CPH's that are used for temporary occupation of land that does not belong to you and used for less than 364 days per year. You must consider the length of your agreement when setting up your tCPH. Your tCPH will only be valid for the duration that you record on your application.

Are you currently using a tCPH? If so, you need to ensure that the end date of your agreement is correct. Once the end date of your tCPH has passed you will not be able to notify livestock movements off that holding. You can amend the end date of your tCPH in "Manage my CPH" within your RPW online account but this can only be done if the end date has not alreadu passed. You'll need to ensure all your livestock is off the land on or before the scheduled end date of the tCPH. If the end date has passed and livestock is still on the tCPH, contact RPW to ask if it is possible to extend the period of the tCPH, if it is still less than 364 days.

Full Guidance on CPH requirements can be found at gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-06/county-parish-holdings-and-livestock-movements-updated-guidance-june-2021.pdf.





Transfer of BPS Entitlements 2024

The 2024 transfer window of BPS entitlements is open, with Transfer of Entitlements forms available on the RPW Online account.

Entitlement values displayed on the RPW Online account may be subject to annual changes to take account of the value of unclaimed entitlements in 2024 and unallocated National Reserve budget in 2024. This increase applied to the entitlement value in 2024 will only apply in 2024.

Customers **must** submit the Transfer of Entitlements form before midnight on 15 May 2024 for the entitlements to be available to claim in BPS 2024.

The BPS Transfer of Entitlements Guidance is available on the Welsh Government website.

gov.wales/basic-payment-schemetransfer-entitlements-guidance

Cross Compliance 2024

The vast majority of Cross Compliance rules continue to apply as in 2023. However, some factsheets have been updated for 2024. They reflect changes in requirements, good practice and to clarify wording. There have also been some changes to the Cross Compliance 2024 Verifiable Standards for:

- classifying breaches of Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) and
- Statutory Management Requirements (SMR).

These changes include SMR 1 – Water Protection, updated to reflect requirements applying to all land from 1 January 2024 under the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

gov.wales/control-agricultural-pollution-regulations-guidance

RPW Online – GOV.UK One Login

To modernise the RPW Online service and enable new features in the future, we are moving away from the Government Gateway. Rural Payments Wales (RPW) is currently developing a new system for customers to access RPW Online using GOV.UK One Login.

After the Single Application Form (SAF) 2024 submission period ends, we will begin asking RPW Online users to migrate to the GOV.UK One Login system.

To ensure the migration to GOV.UK One Login is as smooth as possible, we will be contacting all existing RPW Online users to ask them to migrate in phases.

We will initially ask Agents and Farming Unions to migrate. Following this, we will ask groups of sole traders and administrators of larger businesses to migrate throughout 2024. We are inviting users in groups to ensure

help is available for those requiring assistance.

New users will register using GOV.UK One Login instead of the Government Gateway from June.

Further updates regarding GOV.UK One Login will be provided in the Gwlad newsletters.

gov.wales/subscribe-farming-andforestry-news-gwlad

What do I need to do now?

Individuals using RPW Online will need their own login information, please ensure in advance all details are up to date and correct on your RPW Online account Individual Details tab.

Agents or customers who do not have online access to amend individual details should notify RPW of any changes using Customer Contact messaging.

SAF Digital Assistance

Our Regional Offices are open to the public strictly by appointment only. If you need additional support, particularly if you are completing the SAF for the first time the Customer Contact Centre can provide telephone support. The Customer Contact Centre can also make a 'Digital Assistance' appointment, if necessary, for you to attend a Regional office where a member of staff can guide you through the process.

BPS 2024 payments

This year, an Advance payment, worth 70% of the estimated BPS 2024 claim value, will be made from 14 October 2024, subject to claim eligibility and receipt of all necessary supporting documents. Balance payments will be made from 12 December 2024.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SCHEMES

Application dates for all agricultural support scheme can be found at: **gov.wales/rural-schemes-application-dates**.

Details of all guidance documents for the Agricultural Support Schemes can be found at **gov.wales/rural-grants-payments**.

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 objectives are to increase on-farm investment, increase technical performance, increase on-farm production efficiencies, increase on-farm resource efficiencies, and enhance the use of technology to improve management decisions.

The application window opened on 6 March 2024 and will close on 16 April 2024.

The maximum grant award is £15,000 and the minimum is £1,000. The grant provides a maximum 40% contribution towards capital investments in equipment and machinery (excluding VAT), which can be demonstrated as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to farm businesses.

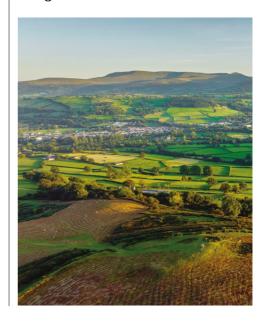
Participation in previous rounds of the **Small Grants – Efficiency** scheme will not affect your ability to apply for the maximum £15,000 grant. (All applicants can apply for the maximum £15,000.)

Small Grants - Environment

The Small Grants – Environment provides a maximum of £7,500 funding per window for Capital Works Projects. Set lists of Capital Works are available to support the delivery of beneficial environmental outcomes.

The next application window of the Small Grants – Environment Scheme will open 20 May 2024 and close on 28 July 2024. The theme of this window will be **Carbon**.

A further application window of Small Grants – Environment scheme is currently planned to open later this year.





Growing for the Environment (Autumn Sowing)

Supports the establishment of an unsprayed cover crop following autumn harvesting of cereals or maize where soil, after harvesting, is ordinarily left bare or stubble retained. A maximum grant of £5,000 is available for eligible crops.

The next application window will open on 3 June 2024 and will close on 12 July 2024.

Organic Support Announced

On 17 January 2024, the Minister announced support payments to fully-certified organic farmers in 2024.

gov.wales/written-statementannouncement-organic-supportpayment-2024

A summary of the Organic Support is available at: gov.wales/organic-support-2024-summary-html

Full guidance is published within the Single Application Form (SAF) 2024 rules booklet.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING SCHEME

Final Sustainable Farming Scheme consultation now closed.

The 'Sustainable Farming Scheme; Keeping farmers farming' consultation on the development of the new Scheme has now closed.

We would like to thank all farmers and wider stakeholders who have responded to the consultation or attended meetings to discuss the proposals (with over 3,200 people attending our 10 roadshows).

The response has been substantial, no final decisions have yet been made on the design of the SFS. We are now analysing the consultation feedback which will help us refine the scheme details.

WOODLAND CREATION SCHEMES

The Woodland Creation Planning Scheme is open, for Expressions of Interest throughout the year. Selection is undertaken monthly. The scheme provides a grant for a Registered Woodland Planner to provide advice and write a woodland creation plan. Once a woodland creation plan has been written, you can apply for a Woodland Creation Grant.

A new approach will be introduced to the Woodland Creation Grant in 2024, there will be one window open from 4 March 2024 until 22 November 2024, or until the allocated budget has been committed. Following calls from the industry, this will be the first time Welsh Government will open one long window during the year. Selection will be run monthly.

The Small Grant Woodland Creation Expression of Interest Window 1 is open and closes 19 April 2024. Further windows will open later in the year. This grant is for tree planting schemes which are less than 2 Hectares and offers support for planting only on eligible land which is included in the low sensitivity area shown on the Woodland Opportunities Map (WOM). datamap.gov.wales/maps/small-grants-woodland-creation/

Dates are available on the Welsh Government website for the other scheduled Windows for 2024 along with the first Window for 2025.

gov.wales/rural-schemes-applicationdates



AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION REGULATIONS

Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations

The next phase of the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations comes into force on 1 August 2024. This will introduce new requirements for the storage of slurry and poultry manure and introduce closed periods for the spreading of high nitrogen organic manures (including slurry).

Required storage capacity and the storage period

Sufficient storage must be provided for all cattle slurry produced in a yard or building on the holding for 5 months calculated between 1 October and 1 March. For pig slurry and poultry manure it is 6 months, calculated between 1 October and 1 April. The volume of manure produced by animals must be calculated using the values contained within the regulations.

The store must also have the capacity to store any rainfall, washings or other liquid which enters the vessel (either directly or indirectly) during the storage period. See the guidance for the required calculations.

Closed periods for spreading high nitrogen organic manures

The Control of Agricultural Pollution regulations introduce closed periods for the spreading of high nitrogen organic manures, including slurry. The closed periods are outlined in the table opposite. Exemptions apply, see guidance for details.

Soil Type	Grassland	Tillage land	
Sandy or shallow soil	1 September – 31 December	1 August – 31 December	
All other soils	15 October to 15 January	1 October to 31 January	

The spreading of farmyard manure is not impacted by the closed period.

Guidance and support

Detailed guidance and a digital workbook are available on the Welsh Government website: gov.wales/control-agriculturalpollution-regulations-guidance Technical support is available from the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations helpline operated by ADAS on 01974 847000. Supporting resources are also available via Farming Connect.







A one-stop resources hub

Helping you & your farm business stay strong and resilient







FarmWell is a new online resources hub full of the most useful information to help keep your farm business, and yourself, resilient through changing times and help you plan positively for the future.

FarmWell is free to use and has three clear aims:

Business

Supporting you in developing your farm business and keeping it resilient through changing times. FarmWell provides links to the most useful and user-friendly information sources across all farm business areas, where you can find the facts to help plan successfully and efficiently.

Personal

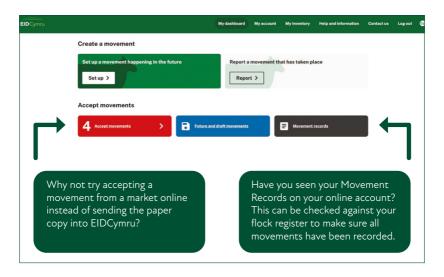
Helping you, your family and your staff to deal with change. FarmWell contains supportive links, advice and help, aimed at improving your emotional and physical resilience, whilst maintaining a safe and healthy working environment.

Support

Guidance on how you can access additional support and mentoring, both from a business and personal perspective, should the need arise.

To find out more visit farmwell.wales

LIVESTOCK ID AND MOVEMENT UPDATE



EIDCymru

Are you using EIDCymru to report your sheep movements electronically? Staff in the EIDCymru bureau are happy to help you log into the system or talk you through the process. They are available by telephone on 01970 636 959 or by email at contact@eidcymru.org



Livestock Register

If you keep livestock on your holding, you must maintain a register for each species on each of your holding/s (CPHs).

Registers are available digitally or as a printed copy. Digital copies can be downloaded from the links below on Welsh Government website.

Cattle Herd Register gov.wales/cattle-herd-register-booklet

Sheep and Goat Record gov.wales/sheep-and-goat-record

If you prefer a printed copy of either register, please contact EIDCymru with your name and address and they will post one out to you:

- E-mail: contact@eidcymru.org
- Phone: 01970 636959

There is no charge for a printed copy.

Pig Register

You do not have to keep a holding register if you have an eAML2 account, because these details are all recorded in the eAML2 system.

If you wish to keep a holding register, an example of the details that need to be recorded are shown opposite:

Date of movement	Identification number *		Holding from which moved	Holding to which moved	Movement Reference
01/01/2020	Ear tag with "UK" and herdmark of the holding from which the pig is moved off; or a tattoo showing that herdmark	3	Current holding Full address CPH number	New holding Full address CPH number	AB1234

^{*} In the case of a movement to shows, AI centres, or for export, this must include each pig's unique individual identification number.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Changes to the restrictions on bird gatherings

In light of the improving avian influenza situation in Great Britain. Welsh Government officials recently commissioned a revised assessment of the risks associated with bird gatherings. The risk assessment concluded that the risk posed by gatherings is now determined to be 'low' for Galliformes (pheasants, partridge, quail, chickens, turkey and guinea fowl) in addition to other captive bird groups including Psittaciformes (parrots), Columbiformes (doves, pigeons), Passerines (perching birds/majority of bird species) and birds of prey. The risk posed by gatherings of Anseriforme birds (ducks and geese) remains at 'medium'.

Further to this new assessment. the Welsh Government is amending the general licence for gatherings (gatherings include fairs, shows and sales of birds) to allow for gatherings of Galliforme birds. Gatherings of Anseriforme birds will remain prohibited until further notice. Bird keepers in Wales will be notified of this change, as well as any future changes to restrictions and measures concerning avian influenza, or any other notifiable bird disease. All of our disease mitigation measures, including restrictions on bird gatherings, are kept under constant review and should we see an increase to the level of risk, we must consider what preventative measures should be introduced or reintroduced, to protect our birds'



Have you heard of Bluetongue Virus?

Bluetongue virus (BTV) is an infectious, non-contagious, midge-borne viral disease, which affects wild and domestic ruminants and camelids. It does not infect humans and there is no risk to public health or food safety.

Bluetongue virus serotype 3 (BTV-3) was first reported in Kent, England in November 2023 and cases continue to be found in Kent and Norfolk

There is no evidence that bluetongue virus is currently circulating in midges in Great Britain. We are now in a Vector Low Period (VLP) characterised by a decrease in temperature during which midge activity and the associated risk of virus transmission is much reduced.

It is very important that livestock keepers are aware of the possibility of Bluetongue emerging as a risk once temperatures and midge activity increase this Spring. Please remain vigilant, practice good biosecurity, and discuss the risks with your vet. More information, including how to spot and report the disease is available online.

gov.wales/bluetongue-virus-btv

If you suspect Bluetongue contact your local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office immediately on 0300 303 8268.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

Check your flood risk

Your land may be at risk of flooding even if your house is not, and there may be different levels of risk across your land.

You can identify the different areas at risk of flooding by:

- finding the flood risk for your area for flooding from the sea, rivers, surface water and smaller watercourses*
- identifying areas that are low-lying and where water tends to pool
- identifying areas close to watercourses or their flood plains
- identifying areas with compact soil, because this reduces the amount of water that can soak into the ground.

If areas of your land are at risk of flooding, remember it is a legal requirement that organic manure heaps are not located on land liable to flooding.

*naturalresources.wales/flooding/ check-your-flood-risk-by-postcode

If you own land or property near or on a watercourse, you have responsibilities for managing flood risk too. Find out more about riverside property or land owners rights and responsibilities.

naturalresources.wales/flooding/ owning-a-watercourse



Check flood warnings

NRW use three types of flood warnings for flooding from rivers or the sea.

These could give you time to protect your home and move livestock or machinery.

When we issue a Flood Alert (the lowest level of risk we send a message for) we expect flooding of farmland. When we issue a Flood Warning, we expect flooding of homes and businesses. When we issue a Severe Flood Warning, we expect danger to life.

Consider this when you create your flood plan, to ensure you have enough time to take action.

Check the live flood warnings and alert map to see all live warnings across Wales.

flood-warning.naturalresources.wales

You can also check if you can sign up to the flood warning service to receive free direct messages by email, telephone, or text message.

naturalresources.wales/flooding/ sign-up-to-receive-flood-warnings

Other sources of live information

View our 5 day flood risk for the daily forecast of flooding in your local authority area.

5-day-flood-risk.naturalresources. wales

View your local river levels, rainfall and sea data as an indication of local conditions

rivers-and-seas.naturalresources. wales



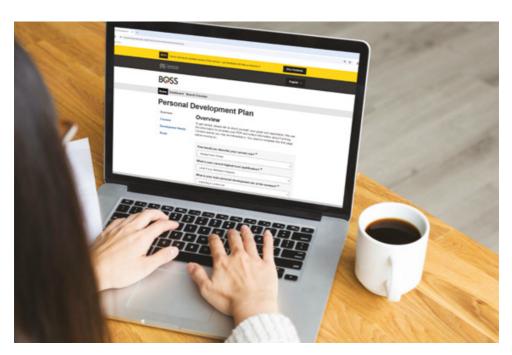
IDENTIFY YOUR 2024 TRAINING GOALS WITH SUPPORT FROM FARMING CONNECT



Your career pathway and personal development is down to you, and Farming Connect's lifelong learning and development programme can provide the support, guidance, and training to help you identify gaps in your knowledge and achieve your goals.

If you work in agriculture and horticulture in Wales and want to work more efficiently, sustainably, and profitably in 2024, updating your Farming Connect personal development plan (PDP), or if you don't already have one, creating one, is a critical first step.

The PDP, a secure online tool unique to you includes a 'development needs' tab that will be updated for you to include all 'personal development' conversations you may have had with Farming Connect staff. You can also update it yourself if you identify a new training or development requirement.



Your personal development plan will help you set out both long-term objectives and short-term goals.

Your PDP will help you set out both long-term objectives and short-term goals. The starting point of any client journey with Farming Connect, it is an essential requirement before you can apply for services including animal health and welfare accredited workshops, one-to-one mentoring. accredited training courses, the Agri Academy, Agrisgôp programme and most other personal development support projects that are available through Farming Connect. A PDP is your personal journey, so there is no one-size-fits-all approach, but Farming Connect can help you create a plan which is tailored to your unique needs and aspirations.

Your PDP completion will be uploaded to your Storfa Sgiliau account on your behalf. This is Farming Connect's secure, online record-keeping tool which sets out all your personal skills and achievements, including all activities and training undertaken through Farming Connect.

There's also a 'My Space' section which you can update with other relevant personal development or academic achievements outside of Farming Connect. Storfa Sgiliau is now widely acknowledged as providing essential evidence for farm assurance schemes, retail and wholesale buyers and it can help you set out a chronological CV.

If you need assistance with any part of accessing or creating your PDP, support is always available, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (excluding weekends and bank holidays).
Call your local Farming Connect development officer or visit the Farming Connect website on gov.wales/farmingconnect for contact details. Alternatively, call the Farming Connect Service Centre on 03456 000 813.

Farming Connect has also published a useful 'step by step' guidance booklet which will assist you in accessing BOSS and completing a PDP. This can also be found online.





WORKING AT HEIGHT preventing falls

Falls are the second highest cause of death in agriculture. Work at height must be planned, supervised and carried out by competent people.

Follow these guidelines:

- Avoid roof work, do as much as you can from the ground.
- Avoid doing the work yourself.
- → Use a professional contractor with the knowledge, skills, equipment and experience.
- → Don't attempt to use the wrong equipment.
- → Being lifted on the forks or bucket of a tele handler is illegal.

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE FARMING SAFER



WALES RURAL NETWORK SUPPORT UNIT (WRNSU)

The role of the WRNSU is to facilitate the networking process and the engagement of stakeholders. The network uses several communication platforms as listed below to share information, best practice, and expertise across Wales.

As the EU RDP Programme has come to an end, our website has moved onto a new platform hosted by Business Wales. Here you can find information on the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) and other rural schemes. Visit the website for more information about rural schemes in Wales, upcoming events, and the latest news.

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



facebook.com/WalesRuralNet



@WalesRuralNet



rhwydwaithgwledig_ruralnetwork (@rgc_wrn) (Instagram photos and videos)



Rhwydwaith Gwledig Cymru | Wales Rural Network - YouTube



businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork

Connect with us at any time via email **Ruralnetwork@gov.wales** or through any of the channels listed above. We will get back to you as soon as possible.





WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

FARMWELL WALES

www.farmwell.wales

THE DPJ FOUNDATION

0800 5874262

TIR DEWI

0800 1214722 mail@tirdewi.co.uk

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

0800 188 4444 info@rabi.org.uk

RPW CUSTOMER CONTACT CENTRE

0300 062 5004

FARMING CONNECT

03456 000 813

THE ADDINGTON FUND

01926 620135

FARM LIAISON SERVICE

0300 0255449 farmliaisonservice@gov.wales

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

03000 111 999 help@fcn.org.uk

MIND CYMRU

0300 123 3393 info@mind.org.uk

SAMARITANS

116 123 jo@samaritans.org