

Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Summer 2021



Isle of Wight
area of outstanding
natural beauty

Important news – see the article on the new grant scheme
'Farming in Protected Landscapes'

Welcome

Some things in farming can be controlled and others cannot, like the weather. Yet again we have experienced another odd season with periods of low temperatures earlier in the year and a series of frosts which had become very infrequent. There is not much that can be done other than to adapt to the prevailing conditions. This same approach is needed to deal with changes to the Basic Payment Scheme. As an example, for those receiving £30,000 or less this is how the payments will reduce.

Scheme year	2021	5% reduction
	2022	20%
	2023	35%
	2024	50%

For someone previously receiving £25,000, this year the estimated payment will be reduced to £23,750, then £20,000 the next year and £12,500 in 2024. The last payment will be made in 2027.

You can calculate your reduction by this link....

<https://calculate-direct-payment-reductions.defra.gov.uk/>

What does this mean for farming including our Island farms? Strutt & Parker comment...

After 47 years of EU membership and 28 years of area-based subsidies under that regime, 2021 represents the first year of the phasing out of the Basic Payment Scheme and the introduction of a package of UK support measures. This will, undoubtedly, be the most significant change for farming businesses any of the current generation of farming leaders

will have seen. It will present some very significant challenges to many businesses, particularly those that are heavily dependent on BPS to support profits. Nevertheless, there will also be plenty of opportunities for the best operators to grow their businesses.

Many Island farmers have responded to the cuts in BPS by applying to join the Countryside Stewardship scheme. Such a move makes perfect sense – it's a case of 'a bird on the hand...'. Whilst Stewardship is not a direct replacement it does reward sound land management with a guaranteed annual payment. If Environmental Land Management (ELM) provides a more attractive option in 2024/25 then early exit from Stewardship is permissible without financial penalty. Stewardship applications must be submitted before 30th July but if this deadline cannot be met do get in touch to work up a scheme for next year.

Unlike the weather, there is certainty on the reduction in direct farming subsidy, but what does the Government offer instead? There is much on the horizon with, for example, the first component of ELM known as the Sustainable Farm Incentive (SFI). This is currently a pilot scheme so that when fully open should have its design fully tried and tested. At least one farm on the Island I am aware of has signed up for the SFI. Another scheme for those who wish to leave farming the is currently available for comment. The Lump sum exit scheme is aimed at those who 'would like to retire or leave the industry but have found it difficult to do so for financial reasons'. The Government proposes to offer a payment to help them do this in a planned and managed way

The most recent announcement is for those who are thinking of planting trees. This is an upgraded version of the Woodland Creation Scheme and has the title of England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO). For more detail see...

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/england-woodland-creation-offer>

In addition to the grant you may also be able to gain extra income from selling carbon credits resulting from the new planting.

CSF can arrange a completely free visit by qualified external consultants to advise on soil and nutrient management planning, slurry/manure handling storage, machinery testing and calibration (fertiliser and manure spreaders), soil sampling and slurry/manure sampling and analysis. Contact us for further details.

Catchment Sensitive Farming

For a free advisory farm visit contact:

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We hope you want to hear from us, but you can change your preferences or mind at any time by emailing **mark.simmons@iow.gov.uk**

Please provide your contact details and tick how you would like to be contacted by the Isle of Wight for Catchment Sensitive Farming partnership or Natural England below:

- You can contact me by phone/mobile:
- You can contact me by email:
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Natural England's Information Charter is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about/personal-information-charter>

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**A clear solution
for farmers**

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING



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