



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

England's Future Farming and Countryside Programme (FFCP)

An overview of changes to English agricultural policy
2021-2027



Agriculture and land use in England

- 70% of land in England is farmed
- In 2020, agriculture contributed to 0.58% of UK GDP
- In 2020, UK agricultural area was 17.3 million hectares of land
- In 2021, Defra estimates there were 297,000 farmers in England
- Wheat is the most grown crop in the UK
- Average farm size 87Ha
- 67% self sufficient
- 10% GHG emissions in 2020 (UK)
- Nature in decline in many areas



Devolution and agriculture

- Agriculture is a devolved policy area.
- Leaving the EU means the devolved administrations and England will be able to develop their own agricultural policies.
- There are some policies that relate to agriculture that are reserved matters for the UK Government
 - Competition
 - UK's obligations to the WTO



What do we want to achieve?

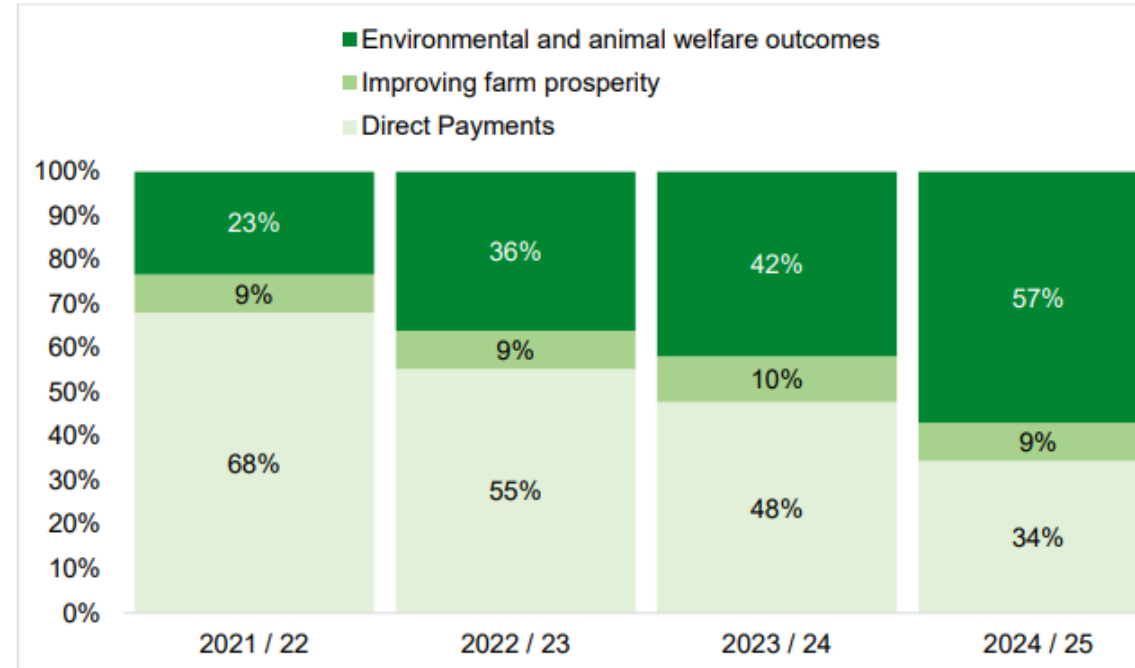
- Food security
- Productive, resilient farms
- Environment and climate
- Animal health and welfare



English agricultural policy

- 7-year transition period - from 2021 to 2027
- Moving away from Direct Payments
- Replace with targeted payments
- Same level of funding (£2.4bn/year = Fr2.77bn/yr)

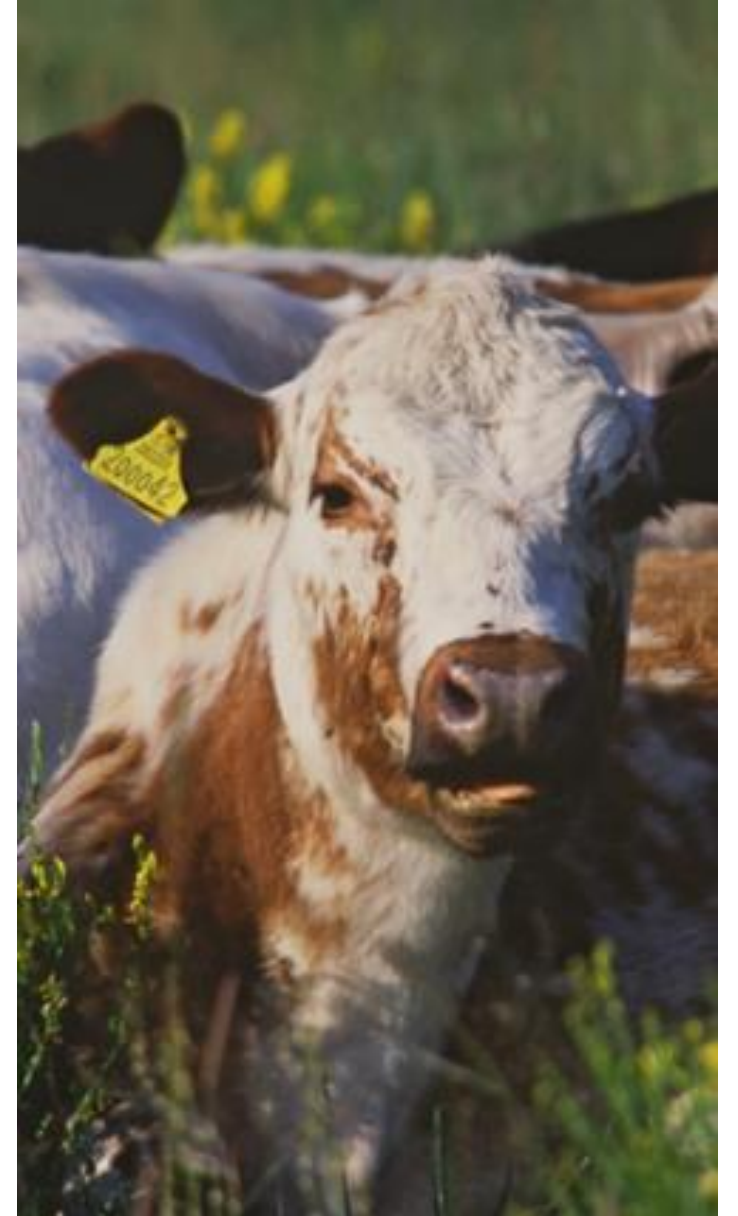
Figure 1: Funding plan for 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25



Taken from Agricultural Transition Plan

Grants and ongoing payments

- A range of grants and ongoing payments
- Open and accessible to all



Grants in 2022

In 2022, the Farming Investment Fund has grants for:

- productivity
- slurry storage
- animal health and welfare

There are also grants for:

- environmental improvements (Countryside Stewardship, tree health, Farming in Protected Landscapes)
- innovation, research and development

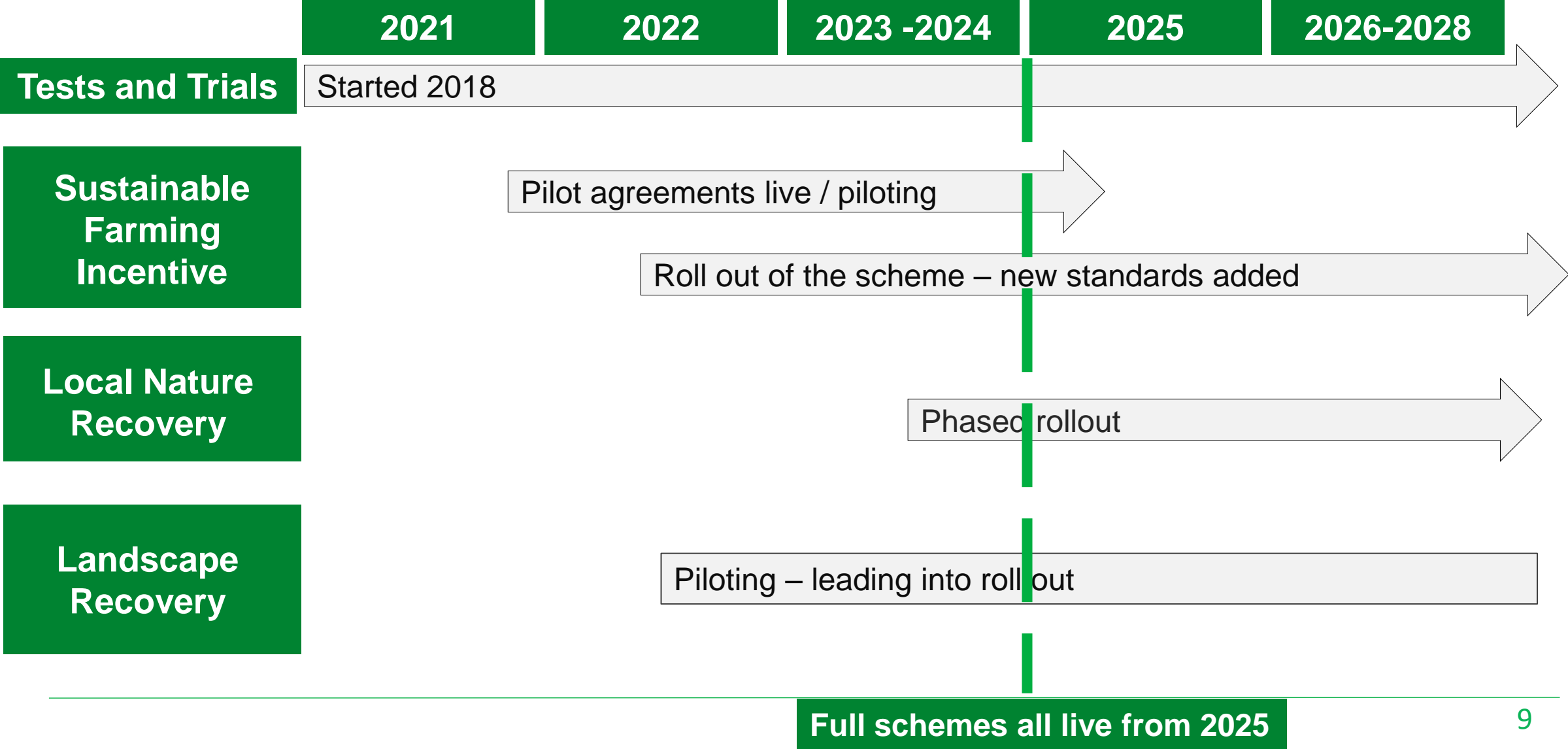
Grants beyond 2022

In future years there will be:

- more rounds of the Farming Investment Fund, including slurry storage
- more innovation, research and development grants
- England's Rural Prosperity Fund, to support diversification
- capital offers for environmental improvements



The three environmental land management schemes



Ongoing payments in 2022

In 2022, farmers can apply for payments for:

- managing habitats, woodlands and flood risk (Countryside Stewardship)
- protecting soils and assessing moorlands (Sustainable Farming Incentive)
- planting and managing trees (EWCO and other tree schemes)



Ongoing payments beyond 2022

- A wider range of actions through SFI, in 2023 and 2024
- Countryside Stewardship – starting in 2023 or 2024
- Things that help the local environment, through Local Nature Recovery, from 2024/25
- Another round of bespoke Landscape Recovery projects
- Piloting animal health and welfare ‘payment by results’ from 2023
- Joining farming and leaving

How we work with farmers

How we are working with farmers:

- Co-Design
- Test and Trials

We are making things:

- fair
- flexible
- workable



More information

- Agricultural Transition Plan https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954283/agricultural-transition-plan.pdf
 - Future farming blog <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/>
 - Overview summary <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2021/06/23/how-farming-is-changing/>
 - Leaflet for farmers <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/246/2021/06/Payments-for-Farmers-July-2022-1.pdf>
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Questions





Schweizer Agrarpolitik Forum 2022

(R)evolution in der Schweizer Agrarpolitik – Wohin geht die Reise?



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