

Farm Resilience

We recognise that our changes will be challenging for some farmers. To support these changes and to give farmers the best chance of benefiting from our reforms we will be providing support to build resilience during the early years of the transition. This support will help farmers by providing the information and tools required to plan with confidence on the best way forward for their business.

Scheme description

Under the initial phase we have already invested £1 million with rural-facing organisations to work with 1,700 farmers throughout England who represent different farming types, businesses and personal situations. Based on what works for farmers and their feedback we will shape future scheme design where we will expand our offer to make support available to more farmers.

This will be a time-limited scheme operating during the first three years of the transition, up until 2024. It will target support at individuals and businesses most affected by the removal of Direct Payments.

The scheme will provide funding so farmers can access support provided by organisations with relevant expertise and who are already known and trusted in the farming community. The scheme will focus on assisting farmers to make the right decisions for both themselves, their families and their business through effective discussion and planning. The scheme will signpost the wider support available to farmers, including wellbeing.

Eligibility

Farmers who are currently in receipt of Direct Payments will be the target group for this scheme. All farmers will be interested in the transition and future changes, but we will focus this scheme towards those whose incomes are likely to be most adversely affected by the removal of Direct Payments. There will be different levels of support and we are currently looking at how many farmers we would like to benefit.

Payments

Farmers will be offered expert advice and support provided by groups, charities or businesses with relevant skills and expertise. We are continuing to learn from the initial phase of the fund, and those lessons will inform what we offer during the next phase.

Timings

The initial phase ends in March 2021 and we plan to offer support at a larger scale from that point onwards. We will provide further details about the support that will be on offer in 2021.