



CAP REFORM SPECIAL

In the 2005 CAP Reform there were many mistakes made on both the part of farmer's and the RPA which led to hardship later down the line as the RPA chose to reclaim overpayments when the then Single Farm Payment was introduced. It is important not to let this happen again under the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS).

There are two elements to the new scheme which are referred to as

- Part 1 Basic Payment 70% of value
- Part 2 Greening Element 30% of Value

The Greening element is split into 3 further elements

- A national permanent pasture level set at the 2012 level similar to current Single Farm Payment Scheme
- Crop Diversification: 2 or 3 crop rule (see below)
- Environmental Focus Area (see below)

CROP DIVERSIFICATION

Whilst many of you think the new Basic Payment Scheme does not come into effect until 2015. There are implications for cropping in 2014 which will affect the outcome of your 2015 claim. This is particularly important for those of you planting daffodils and cereals this autumn or any other crop which spans past the 15th May 2015 and also for anyone who blocks out farms to a single crop such as daffodils.

1. The 2 crop rule for growers of between 10ha and 30ha of cropped land who will be required to at grow least 2 crops
2. The 3 crop rule for growers of crops over 30ha who will be required to grow at least 3 crops with a minimum proportional acreage as follows:
 - The first crop must not be greater than 75% of the total cropped area
 - The first and second crop combined must not be greater than 95% of the total cropped area
 - Therefore the third crop must be greater than 5% of the total area.

A further point to remember is that "temporary grass" is included in your cropped area as are former countryside stewardship field boundaries.

ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS AREA

The above is further complicated by the Environmental Focus Area (EFA). If you grow greater than 15ha of cropping then you are required to identify 5% of land and or features which will contribute to the EFA, if you cannot identify sufficient features then land has to be withdrawn from production (set aside/fallow). Features included in your ELS schemes such as hedgerows cannot be included in your BPS claim because whilst they are current in your ELS/HLS Schemes you are receiving support for them under Pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy. If your Countryside Stewardship scheme has finished and you still retain some of those features you can use them towards building your EFA >5% of your cropped land. You will see from the table below that the features are weighted to give them more or less importance.

Features (per m ²)	Conversion	Weighting	EFA Area
Fallow Land		1	1m ²
Hedges	3m ² per metre run	1.5	4.5m ²
Isolated Trees	20m ² per tree	1.5	30m ²
Line of trees	4m ² per metre run	1.5	6m ²
Field Margins	6m ² per metre run	1.5	9m ²
Ponds		1.5	1.5m ²
Ditches	3m ² per metre run	1	3m ²
Stone walls	1m ² per metre run	1	1m ²
woodland		0.3	0.3m ²
Nitrogen fixing / Catch crops (e.g. peas/beans)		0.3	0.3m ²

For example

- 200 ha farm
- 40ha of cereals
- 100ha of permanent pasture
- 55ha of temporary grass
- 5ha of woodland
- Has a total arable area of 95ha

It will be required to have three crops:

- Crop 1: 55ha of temporary grass – 57%
- Crop 2: 25 ha of winter wheat – 26%
- Crop 3: 13.91ha of spring barley -14%
- EFA Equivalent: 4.75ha- 5% of which 1.09ha is fallow

EFA is constructed thus (this farm has 2000m of hedgerow in ELS and 2000m not in ELS)

Features (per m ²)	Conversion	Area or length or number	Weighting	EFA Area
Fallow Land		1.09ha	1	1.09ha
Hedges	3m ² per metre run	2000	1.5	0.9ha
Isolated Trees	20m ² per tree	25	1.5	0.75ha
Line of trees	4m ² per metre run		1.5	
Field Margins	6m ² per metre run		1.5	
Ponds		1800m ²	1.5	0.27ha
Ditches	3m ² per metre run	800m	1	0.24ha
Stone walls	1m ² per metre run		1	
woodland		5 ha	0.3	1.5ha
Nitrogen fixing / Catch crops			0.3	
Total				4.75

ENTITLEMENTS

There will be no applications for BPS under 5ha, if you are such a person then you need to decide if you wish to amalgamate with another or if you wish to sell your entitlements. If you are being asked to combine your application with another remember that as the applicant you are responsible for all the cross compliance issues. There will be no trading of entitlements after the 2nd of April 2014 until January 2015. Make sure if you have entitlements which you flip that this year 2014 you use them as the two year rule still applies (don't use them for two years and you will lose them).

BPS SCHEME

Clearly the BPS is a work in progress, issues like double cropping and semi-permanent crops like daffodils are a mystery to DEFRA; it is obvious that we will see a return to crop codes; as hedges are included in the Environmental Focus Area (as per example) but what about boundary hedges?

Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme Grant (FFIS)

Opened for business on the 4th of February 2014 and will close on the 4th of April 2014. For details see the DEFRA website and put FFIS in the search box. It is split into the following themes – nutrient management, animal welfare, forestry, energy efficiency and water resource management. Look from the list of eligible items which apply. Minimum farmer expenditure £6250 and maximum farmer expenditure £62500 of which 40% is grant aided. Payment of grant is on evidence of payment and a bank statement demonstrating that money leaving the account. For all applications you will need the support of your bank and letters of support e.g. for animal welfare a letter from your vet.

HELP TO FARMERS IN THE SOMERSET LEVELS

Would you like to help those farmers who have been affected by the floods in Somerset?

To make a cash donation:

- Go to fcn.org.uk or call the hotline on 0845 367 9990.
- www.rabi.org.uk
- www.somersetcf.org.uk
- The Royal Bath & West Society set up [The Somerset Levels Relief Fund](#) Make a donation on 01749 822200

Or if there is enough interest FarmCornwall can co-ordinate a wagon of silage to help. Sedgemoor Livestock Centre is co-ordinating loads. If you are interested in donating some silage or haulage please call Edward on 01736 352012 or 07775667528



THE PRINCE'S
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