



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

Farm Cornwall

SOUND, PRACTICAL, REALISTIC & CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE

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Sustainable Farming initiative

DEFRA has launched a new initiative, the Sustainable Farming initiative (SFI). It is meant to be a scheme that will bridge the gap between the current Basic Payment Scheme/Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) combination and the impending Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) which will start in 2024. Under the current CSS it is a fixed term of 5 years across the farm; schemes applied this year in 2020 will start in 2021, overlapping the start of ELM ending in

2026. This new scheme is meant to encourage farms into the scheme who find the CSS too restrictive. Details of the scheme are scant at present, as soon we have these details we will let you know.

Each year the uptake of CSS increases, but it nowhere near the level of participation in BPS, which is nearly 100%. The government has a long way to go to persuade famers of the benefits of CSS let alone ELMS.

Funding for Farm Cornwall

We had some great news last week—The Duke of Cornwall's Benevolent Fund has given us a generous donation which will enable us to continue our work with those farming families who are most at risk in the current climate and facing more uncertainty than ever.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to them.



Countryside Productivity Grant

The Countryside Productivity Grant has just been launched. Log onto the website and it will give details of Cattle, Sheep, Pig, precision farming equipment and other specialist equipment. Maximum money that you can claim is £12000, minimum

you can claim is £3000. Items available are listed on the website; grant rate for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly is 50%, 40% elsewhere. **Closing date for applications is midday 4th of November.**

If you need help with the application process please let me know. See top of the newsletter for Farm

Product	October 2020
Milk (b/w cows level delivery)	28-31 ppl
Straw	£120/t
Barley	£130/t
Lamb 39-45kg liveweight	196p/kg lwt
Finished cattle 551-650kg	197p/kg lwt.
18% Dairy Cake Price Range	£238-£284

Cornwall contact details.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-productivity-small-grant-cpsg-scheme-round-3>

www.farmcornwall.co.uk

Prince's Countryside Fund Resilience Programme

Year 5 We will continue to recruit for Year 5 and will hold a

welcome meeting by zoom in December. We will hopefully start with a farm walk in January if Covid 19 legislation allows.

After that point, meetings will hopefully be live but may have to be a mix of zoom and live,

depending on the situation at that point.

Year 4 Hopefully we will be able to restart in the new year (as above) with the succession meeting and then the ELMs meeting.

Devon and Cornwall Police

Please visit the Farm Cornwall website to see two interesting articles from the Devon and Cornwall Police Rural Affairs Team:

<https://www.farmcornwall.co.uk/devon-and-cornwall-police-rural-newsletter/>

<https://www.farmcornwall.co.uk/poaching-devon-and-cornwall-police-rural-affairs/>



Edward's Joke:

I stopped in a tiny little village this morning with a cake stall, which had an honesty box.

I ate four, then left a note saying "Bit dry and could do with some more fruit".

Important Dates

- 14 October** EFA catch crops must be retained until this date.
- 15 October** For any land located in an NVZ, this is the start of the closed period for applying organic manure with a high, readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to grassland on soils that are not shallow or sandy.
- 31 October** If you hold a summer water abstraction licence (authorising abstraction wholly within the months of April to October), the Environment Agency will make actual abstraction return forms available to you from 31 October. You then have 28 days to send your readings to the Environment Agency.
- 1 November** You can burn heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse or vaccinium on land, other than in upland areas, from this date.
- 30 November** If you have a two-part tariff agreement for your water abstraction licence, expect to receive your second part charge after 30 November.
- 1 December** BPS payment window opens.
- 1 December** You need to carry out your annual inventory of sheep and goats.
- 31 December** Official end of the BPS scheme year.

DEFRA

DEFRA's Future Farmer Evidence team is meeting via Zoom towards the end of October with representatives from the farm charities sector— Forage Aid, FCN, RABI, Addington and a number of smaller regional ones like ourselves right across the country, such as Rural Support Northern Ireland, Lincolnshire Rural Support, Agricultural Chaplains, Upper Teasdale Agricultural Support Service (Co Durham), Exmoor Hill farm Network and Cumbria Farm Network.

I know from speaking to the farmers as I have (it's not as easy under Covid Rules as before) that there is a concern that BPS is ending and the CSS scheme is complicated and does not suit everyone, especially the intensive dairy and horticulture farms. There is an expectation that some farmers will see this as an opportunity to retire; there is a possibility too that when transferring your BPS to the new ELMs scheme you could receive those BPS payments as a lump sum (2024/25/26/27 payments) to use as you see fit. Please let me know your thoughts by email to edward@farmcornwall.co.uk



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If you have any information which you think might be useful to other farmers, please feel free to email us on mail@farmcornwall.co.uk