

Detailed guide: Countryside Productivity Scheme

Updated: “How to fill in an Improving Farm Productivity application” guidance updated at pages 20 and 21 to clarify that quotes in a foreign currency need to be converted to £ sterling, and that transaction fees are not eligible for grant funding and should be excluded.

Latest news

The Improving Forestry Productivity, Water Resource Management, Adding Value to Agri-food and Countryside Productivity Small Grant schemes are now closed to new applications.

Some livestock handling items are in short supply

If you've received a grant under the Countryside Productivity Small Grant (CPSG) scheme, you may find that some livestock handling items are in short supply. [Find out what's available to help you submit your grant claim.](#)

Countryside Productivity Scheme

The RDPE Countryside Productivity Scheme provides funding for projects in England which improve productivity in the farming and forestry sectors and help create jobs and growth in the rural economy.

It is administered by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA).

Under the RDPE Countryside Productivity Scheme, there are grants for:

- water resource management and reservoirs
- improving forestry productivity
- adding value to Agri-food
- improving farm productivity
- small grants

The grants are funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Government guarantees about funding after the UK leaves the EU

The government has guaranteed funding for RDPE Countryside Productivity Scheme grants if these are agreed and signed before the UK's departure from the EU, even if the grant agreements continue after we have left the EU. This is subject to projects meeting the following conditions when the application is assessed:

- they are good value for money
- they are in line with domestic strategic priorities

Who can apply

To find out if you and your project are eligible, please read the relevant handbook below.

Improving Forestry Productivity

The Improving Forestry Productivity scheme is now closed to new applications.

Applications received by the closing date are being processed.

[Improving forestry productivity handbook](#)

(PDF, 3.59MB, 34 pages)

Water Resource Management

The Water Resource Management scheme is now closed to new applications.

Applications received by the closing date are being processed.

[Water Resource Management handbook](#)

(PDF, 2.85MB, 31 pages)

Adding Value to Agri-food

The Adding Value to Agri-food scheme is now closed to new applications.

Expressions of Interest received by the closing date are being processed.

[Adding Value to Agri-food Handbook](#)

(PDF, 1.84MB, 32 pages)

Improving Farm Productivity

[Improving Farm Productivity Handbook](#)

(PDF, 5.16MB, 30 pages)

[How to fill in an Improving Farm Productivity application](#)

(PDF, 968KB, 32 pages)

[Improving Farm Productivity Application Form](#)

(MS Word Document, 112KB)

[Improving Farm Productivity Application Form – appendix](#)

(MS Excel Spreadsheet, 565KB)

What happens next

For the following schemes:

- Water Resource Management
- Improving Farm Productivity

fill in your application form and send it to us. If this is successful, you'll get a funding agreement to sign.

With your grant funding agreement signed, you can start work on your project.

After you've paid for the work, you can claim your money.

For Adding Value to Agri-food, fill in your Expression of Interest form and send it to us. If this is successful, you'll get a full application form to complete.

Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme

The Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme is now closed for applications.

The RDPE Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme provides funding for farmers to purchase equipment to improve the productivity of their farm. The scheme is different to other parts of the Countryside Productivity scheme as it uses an online application process and is targeted at supporting investment for specific pieces of agricultural equipment.

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If you've received a grant under the Countryside Productivity Small Grant (CPSG) scheme, you may find that some livestock handling items are in short supply. [Find out what's available to help you submit your grant claim.](#)

Who can apply

Farmers (including livestock, dairy, arable and horticultural sectors) can apply for this grant. Please read the handbook below to find out more. This scheme is only open to farmers based in England.

[Small Grant Handbook](#)

(PDF, 1.94MB, 49 pages)

When you can apply

The Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme is now closed for applications.

To help you apply online for the scheme read

[Countryside Productivity Small Grant – Hints and tips](#)

(PDF, 850KB, 4 pages)

Please remember to check your details on the Rural Payments service before you apply for this grant. You must make sure they exactly match with the details in your application form or your application will be rejected.

If you have any questions

Once you have read the handbook, if you have any questions please email your enquiry to CPSGEnquiries@rpa.gsi.gov.uk.

What happens next

Fill in your application form on line and sign up to the terms and conditions of the scheme. We will email you after the date that the funding round closes to let you know if your application has been approved. When you receive this email you can purchase your items.

After you've purchased all your items, you can claim your money

[Collection: Sellafield Ltd](#)

[environmental and safety reports](#)

Environmental stewardship is a core value of Sellafield Ltd. This is achieved by preventing pollution, avoiding or reducing discharges and managing waste. We also minimise our impact on the environment through continual improvement in our processes and activities and striving for excellence in our environmental performance.

We work hard to minimise the environmental impact of our operations across all areas of on-site activities; considering the complete life cycle of projects from design through to decommissioning.

[Research and analysis: Particles in the Environment Annual Report](#)

Updated: Body text amended

Particles in the Environment – Quarterly updates.

These reports are quarterly updates on the particles in the environment programme.

- [Particles in the Environment Quarterly Update](#)
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[Press release: £200 million boost for rural England](#)

Funding for rural businesses that will generate thousands of jobs and provide new support to expand and improve their premises has been announced as part of a £200million grant offer.

Announcing the latest round of [Rural Development Programme](#) funding, Lord Gardiner confirmed that for the first time under the current scheme specific funding will be available to support new rural broadband projects, and provide significant amounts of funding to on-farm businesses to invest in new infrastructure such as new buildings and machinery.

The current Rural Development Programme for England is expected to generate 6,750 new jobs. Already more than 1,400 projects have been agreed which are expected to create over 2,300 jobs.

The grants will also fund landowners to improve farm productivity and invest in rural tourism opportunities.

Rural Affairs Minister Lord Gardiner said:

One in three businesses in this country are based in the countryside, and this government is committed to providing the support they need to create a strong and prosperous rural economy.

This funding will make sure businesses in remote locations can get online, help farmers install cutting-edge technology, create new tourist hotspots and bring high quality jobs to rural communities across the country.

This round of funding will include:

- £30m to improve rural broadband – the grants available will encourage growth by helping provide broadband services at speeds of 30Mbps or faster where this is not available or planned. It will supplement existing [Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport](#) investment in rural broadband.
- £45m to help rural businesses grow and invest in new equipment – rural businesses, including those engaged in tourism and food production, can apply for funding to invest in their company, helping them to expand, diversify, and invest in new technology.
- £120m for projects that improve farm productivity – this money will help farmers, foresters and landowners manage their land more effectively. Funding will be available for a wide range of purposes, including woodland management equipment, creating on-farm reservoirs and using water more efficiently.

Lord Gardiner made the announcement during a visit to the Suffolk Cookhouse project in Ipswich, which received £422,000 in 2012 to open a new food hall. The hall is now one of the biggest tourism hubs in the region, bringing together local artists and food producers, and creating 45 jobs.

The first grant funding that will become available will be for reservoirs and forestry equipment and these are expected to be open for applications from Monday, while funding for broadband, rural business support, on-farm food processing, arable and horticultural productivity and resource efficiency will be made available later in the year. A further £6.6m will be available

for animal health and welfare projects.

This funding is part of planned investment of at least £3.5 billion into our rural economies by 2020 under RDPE, supporting the third of businesses in the UK which are based in the countryside. All projects agreed before we leave the EU will be guaranteed for their lifetime – providing stability and certainty while future support for farmers and rural communities is developed.

Further information

- Today's announcement supports the manifesto commitment to bring sustainable growth to rural economies, entrepreneurs, farmers and landowners.
- The [RDPE Growth Programme](#) provides funding for projects in England which create jobs and growth in the rural economy. Under the RDPE Growth Programme, there are currently calls for projects open for: business development, food processing and rural rural tourism infrastructure.
- [Countryside Productivity](#) aims to improve productivity of farm and forestry businesses by making targeted investments to encourage best practice and innovation.

Research and analysis: UK Science & Innovation Contributes to Global Ocean Security

Together with the University of North Carolina Wilmington and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, SIN Boston convened a meeting of leading scientists from the UK and USA to develop a joint deep-sea coral research programme. This work, catalyzed in 2008, has evolved into the £9.3 million ATLAS project, which supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.”