

Rural & Environmental Science and Analytical Services

The future



of agricultural support in Scotland

From 2025 the support framework will be aimed at delivering against the following five outcomes:

- High quality food production
- Thriving agricultural businesses

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Nature restoration
- A just transition

Future support framework: phased approach

2025

New conditionality introduced – Whole Farm Plan

2026

New enhanced support launched

2027

Additional support elements introduced

Agriculture support package beyond 2025

Tier 1 Base

To support active farming and food producers

Conditional on essential standards to ensure climate, biodiversity & business efficiency outcomes

Tier 2 Enhanced

For businesses that are highly effective in:

Farming and crofting for a better climate

Farming and crofting for nature restoration

Tier 3 Elective

Targeted actions to support nature restoration, innovation, supply chain.

Tier 4 Complementary

New skills, knowledge, training and CPD; advisory services business support; measurement tools.

Whole Farm Plan - measuring impact

By 15 May 2025, Basic Payment Scheme payment conditionality will be completion of two out of five of the following plans/audits:

- Biodiversity audit
- Carbon audit
- Integrated pest management plans

- Soil analysis
- Animal health and welfare plan

Requirements for 2026 and beyond are expected to change. By 2028 all farms and crofts will need to have all relevant five plans and audits in place.

The Scottish Farm Business Survey has produced farm carbon audit data since 2019-20. We are adapting to the new support framework by capturing Whole Farm Plan activity in the sample in 2024-25.

www.ruralpayments.org/topics/agricultural-reform-programme