



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# The Agricultural Transition Period

An overview of changes to English agricultural policy  
2021-2027



# Introduction to the Agricultural Transition

Now we've left the EU, we have an opportunity to shape English agricultural policy to suit our needs

Environmentally-sustainable farming is fundamental to our new policy

We will make changes over a 7-year transition period, from 2021 to 2027

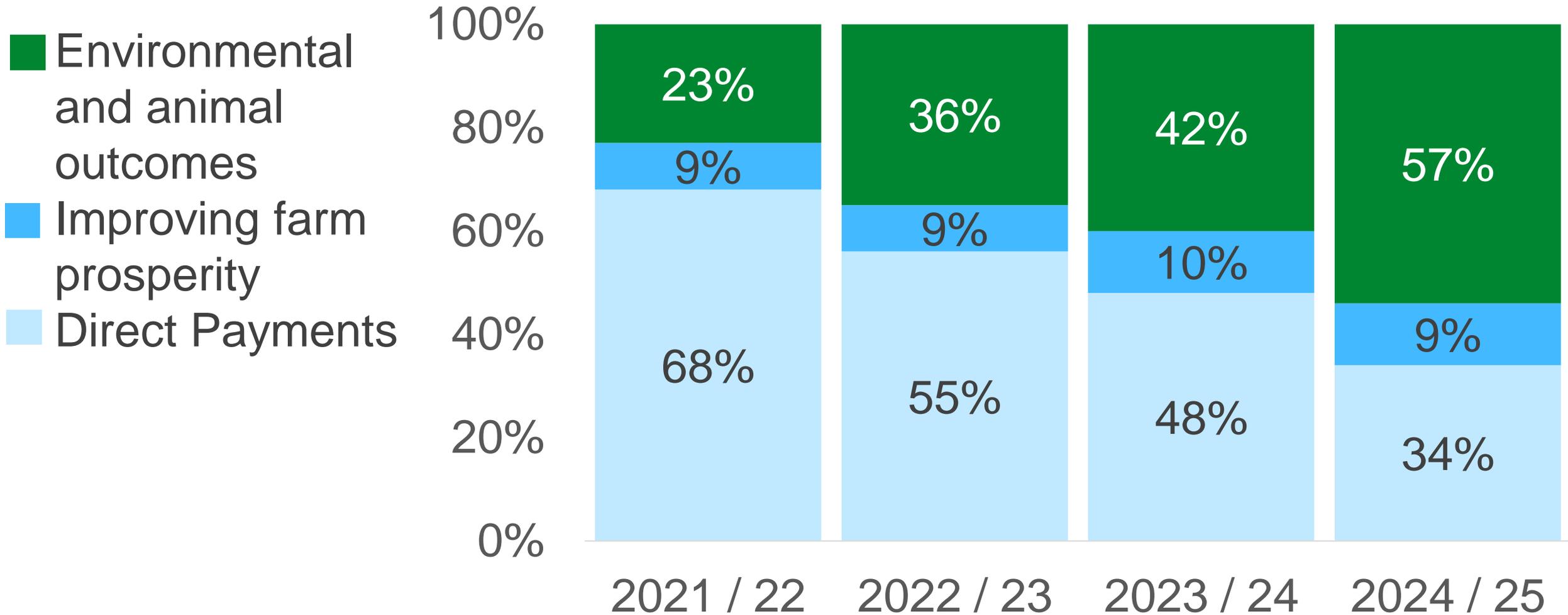
An evolution, not a revolution

# Introduction to the Agricultural Transition

## Our guiding principles

- Co-design things with the people who need to use them
- Help people do the right things for their businesses, the climate and the environment
- Earn people's trust in our systems and approach
- Make things as clear and simple as possible for people
- Make things fair and reasonable
- Make things work for those who have to use them
- Focus on achieving outcomes

# Changes to Direct Payments



# Environmentally-Sustainable Farming

## Countryside Stewardship (CS)

CS remains open to new applications until 2023

CS offers a viable, long-term source of income

Agreed exit points for anyone who secures a place in the Environmental Land Management scheme from 2024

Improvements: agreement management efficiency and agreements less burdensome

# Environmentally-Sustainable Farming

## Woodland creation

The following incentives will remain available:

- Woodland Creation Planning Grant
- Countryside Stewardship
- Woodland Carbon Fund
- HS2 Woodland Fund
- Woodland Carbon Guarantee

# Environmental Land Management

## Public money for public goods

- Clean and plentiful water
- Clean air
- Protection from and mitigation of environmental hazards
- Mitigation of and adaption to climate change
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Beauty, heritage and engagement

# Environmental Land Management

Three component levels

<b>Sustainable Farming Incentive</b>	<b>Local Nature Recovery</b>	<b>Landscape Recovery</b>
Simple actions that achieve environmental outcomes – a foundation	Locally-targeted environmental goals. Encourages collaboration	Landscape and ecosystem recovery through long-term, land use change projects

# Environmental Land Management

## Component 1: The Sustainable Farming Incentive

Designed to be easy for farmers and land managers to engage with

Will focus on actions on individual farms

- Examples of the types of actions we envisage paying for at this level include, but are not limited, to:
  - Nutrient management
  - Field margins (buffer strips)
  - Livestock management
  - Soil management
  - Efficient water storage/use
  - Grassland management

# Environmental Land Management

## Component 2: Local Nature Recovery

Aimed wider than the SFI, providing payment to achieve locally-targeted environmental goals

- Will encourage collaboration between land managers

The types of actions we envisage paying for in this component include:

- Tree, shrub and/or hedge planting + maintenance
- Habitat creation/restoration/management for popular and rare wildlife
- Management and support of rights of way, navigation and infrastructure
- Public education events and services
- Natural flood management
- Protection and enhancement of valued landscape and historical features (such as archaeological sites, historic buildings and stone walls)

# Environmental Land Management

## Component 3: Landscape Recovery

Delivering landscape scale land-use change projects

Will focus on:

- Forest and woodland creation, restoration and improvement
- Peatland restoration
- Creation or restoration of coastal habitats

# Environmental Land Management

## Timings

- Launch of National Pilot in 2021
- Core elements of SFI available from 2022
- Full Environmental Land Management scheme from 2024

# Transition support and sustainable productivity

- **Farming Investment Fund** - Targeted support for investment in equipment, technology, and infrastructure to improve productivity and benefit the environment
- **Future Farming Resilience Funding** - This scheme will provide funding so farmers can access specialist, trusted support
- **Farming in Protected Landscapes** - This will help farmers in Protected Landscapes diversify their income streams and lay the groundwork for Environmental Land Management
- **Animal Health and Welfare Pathway** - Investing in improved animal health and welfare as we strengthen the regulatory baseline and improve consumer transparency

# Changes to Regulation and Enforcement

By the end of the transition, we will have a reformed regulatory system for agriculture

In 2021, we will make improvements to cross compliance:

- Increase the use of warning letters
- Change the Verifiable Standards
- Greater range of more proportionate penalties
- Improve the effectiveness of risk-based targeting

# Engagement and communications

## How farmers can get involved

- Stakeholder workshops
- Working with farming organisations
- Scheme pilots (Environmental Land Management and Tree Health)
- Consultations

Sign up to the Defra **e-Alert** at <https://preferences.defra.gov.uk/> to hear about opportunities to contribute. We'll also publish them on social media and through farming organisations.

# Engagement and communications

## Products

- *The Path to Sustainable Farming: An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024*
- *Farming is Changing: Focus on 2021* booklet

Stay up to date: Defra **e-Alert** and Future Farming Countryside Programme blog at <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/>

# The Nature Recovery Network

## - what is it and why do we need it?



A national network of wildlife-rich places. The aim is to expand, improve and connect these places across our towns, cities and countryside.

The NRN will help us deal with 3 of the biggest challenges we face:

- biodiversity loss
- climate change
- health and wellbeing

## **NRN – Nature Recovery Network**

Delivering on the Lawton principles of ‘more, bigger, better and joined up’,

## **Nature Strategy**

The Strategy to deliver the 25 YEP. Replaces Biodiversity 2020. NRN will be central.

## **LNRS – Local Nature Recovery Strategies**

In draft Environment Bill. Spatial strategies to underpin the NRN. 5 pilots underway covering Northumberland, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Buckinghamshire and Cornwall

## **Nature Recovery Areas**

At a landscape or catchment scale., health and wellbeing benefits

# What the Nature Recovery Network will achieve

The logo for Natural England, featuring the words "NATURAL ENGLAND" in white, uppercase letters on a green rectangular background.

The Nature Recovery Network will:

- **Enhance protected sites** and other wildlife-rich places;
- **Create and restore habitats, corridors and stepping stones;** connect and buffer wildlife-rich places to help plant and animal populations to grow and move; *(links to the three ELM components)*
- **Develop green and blue infrastructure** and networks of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, improving landscape resilience, ecosystem services, health, wellbeing and environmental equity;
- **Improve nature's resilience to climate change;**
- **Reinforce the natural and cultural diversity of our landscapes;**
- **Enable everyone to enjoy and connect with nature** where they live, work and play - benefiting our health and wellbeing.

# NRN objectives...



## To help nature and people flourish together:

- 75 per cent of protected sites for wildlife to be in favourable condition
- Over half a million hectares of new wildlife-rich habitat outside of these sites to be restored or created.
- Wildlife populations recovering with lost species returning to their natural ranges.
- Environmental, economic and social benefits, such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation

# What is Natural England's role?



## Working together nationally and locally we will:

- Convene, support and align with local partnerships
- Support and encourage projects from landscape to local scale that could contribute to the NRN
- Support local delivery by developing guidance, mapping and data
- Lead the setting up of Local Nature Recovery Strategy pilots
- Work with Government to influence and ensure integration of policies and mechanisms that will deliver and fund the NRN
- Support Protected Landscapes (National Parks and AONBs) to develop their nature recovery plans
- Identify and secure new funding, leading the NRN National Delivery Partnership (NDP), securing pledges from organisations

# How will the NRN be delivered?



**Strong partnerships** including national and local government and agencies, land owners and managers, business, charities, local communities and conservation groups, to deliver action on the ground

**Spatial tools** to target and help plan the NRN nationally and locally – **Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)** covering the whole of England, developed in partnership and led by Responsible Authorities.

**Integration** into policy and key funding streams: e.g. Environmental Land Management, biodiversity net gain, tree planting and peatland restoration

# Integration of funding to deliver the NRN



## Existing and developing funding streams:

- *Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Land Management, Catchment Sensitive Farming*, strategic use of Biodiversity *Net Gain* through the planning system

## Government funding:

- £80m Green Recovery Challenge Fund - *includes second round (£40m) announced Nov. 2020*
- £640m Nature for Climate Fund, focused on tree planting (40m trees) and peatland restoration (35k hectares)
- DEFRA's Nature Recovery Fund

# Integration of funding to deliver the NRN cont.



## **Future funding:**

e.g. water company investment, conservation covenants  
(legal tool)

## **Private funding:**

New funding from lottery / private sector / green finance  
initiatives

**The integration of these various funding streams, coupled  
with targeted delivery provides a massive opportunity to  
recover nature**

# Yorkshire & North Lincs. NRN contacts



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