

Farming Investment Fund

There are two levels to the Farming Investment Fund

- Farming Equipment and Technology Fund
- Farming Transformation Fund

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (for grants between £2,000 and £25,000)

The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) provides support to businesses so that they can invest in equipment and technology to improve sustainable agricultural, horticultural and forestry productivity. The Round 1 application period opens on 16 November 2021 and will close on 7 January 2022 at Noon.

The minimum grant value is £2,000 and the maximum grant value is £25,000. You can apply for a total of £50,000 over the scheme's duration, for example if there were two rounds you could apply for £25,000 in each round.

Items must be purchased through a supplier or manufacturer and NOT home built. The item must have the recognised CE or UKCA marking where required and be appropriate to the date of manufacture. Only brand-new items can be funded through the FETF. Ex-demo, second hand and 'try before you buy' items are not eligible for this fund.

If you buy any ineligible items at the same time as the items you can claim for, ask your supplier to invoice you for them separately. You must not buy your items from a supplier who you or your business are part of or linked to in any way.

Farmers, horticulturalists, and forestry owners in England can apply. Contractors can also apply if they have a registered business address in England. Contractors are defined as a business (including a sole trader) that carries out an agricultural, horticultural or forestry activity as a service.

Items in your application will be scored, based on how they meet the following criteria:

- productivity
- animal health and welfare
- environmental benefits, including biodiversity

You will not automatically get a grant. The grant is expected to be highly competitive, and you are competing against all applications received and scored against the same criteria.

Application Process

You must make sure that your Rural Payments record is up to date for your:

- email address
- business name
- business postcode
- full name
- permissions

You will also need the following information (if relevant):

- Correspondence email address
- Companies House Number if you are a Limited company
- VAT Number if registered for VAT
- The amount of land in hectares of any holdings you farm or manage, associated with your SBI
- An estimate of how many animals you keep, which species, sex and age
- County Parish Holding (CPH) number if you keep animals
- Available items you want
- The number of people you employ
- If you are a woodland / forestry owner, the relevant land parcel IDs

If your grant is approved

Your Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) will be emailed, and it will need to be accepted through the portal. You can then order or buy the items you have applied for funding for. All items must be purchased, this list cannot be changed unless exceptional circumstances apply, and RPA have given prior written consent.

Items must be paid for in full and installed and claimed by midnight on 30th September 2022. If you do not buy and install all the items you applied for, your whole claim may be rejected. You must keep accurate records of all spending (receipts and invoices) for the items.

When purchasing your items REMEMBER -

- Do not purchase items before your grant has been approved
- Do not pay using cash.
- Do not use personal bank accounts or credit cards.

To make a claim we need -

- copies of the invoices
- copies of your payment evidence - bank or building society statement or business credit card statement to show the items have been paid in full
- photographic evidence, showing the equipment in situ and operational, for each item
- Evidence that each item contains the required CE or UKCA marking. This needs to be a photograph of the manufacturer's plate showing the marking, or a scanned image of the Certificate of Conformity from the installation or Operating Manual
- Serial number of each item. This needs to be a photograph of the manufacturer's plate, or a scanned image from the Installation or Operating Manual, showing the serial number
- Installation and Operating manuals maybe also requested to help verify the item is eligible.

Invoices must –

- individually describe each item in full
- breakdown the cost of each item
- detail the manufacturer's make and model of the item purchased
- ideally quote the relevant FETF item code
- be addressed to the same individual or business registered with the RPA

- show the supplier's name, address, VAT number and date
- DO NOT INCLUDE ITEMS THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE GRANT!

Bank statements must show –

- bank or building society's name and logo
- account holder name in full
- account number
- sort code
- transaction date
- transaction type (including payee ref/cheque number)
- transaction amount – which must match the value of the invoice

Photos must –

- show the item specification and the item in situ and working
- be clear, in focus, in colour and clearly show the item, and with no other objects in front of the item
- include make and model number, to show the eligibility of the items against the specification
- not be smaller than 600 x 400 pixels and ideally the image file size no larger than 400 KB
- clearly demonstrate the layout of the system
- Avoid taking photos which identify individuals

Terms and conditions of the scheme can be found here –

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-round-1-manual/annex-2-terms-and-conditions>

Eligible items with specification can be found here –

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-round-1-manual/annex-3-eligible-items-specification-and-grant-amount>

Farming Transformation Fund

Within this fund there are three grant available-

- Water Management Grant – opens 16th November 2021 and closes 12th January 2022. Only available to Arable and Horticultural farmers. For more information go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-transformation-fund-water-management-grant-manual>
- Improving Farm Productivity grant – opens later this year
- Adding Value Grant – opens early next year for application