

Farming Investment Fund – key messages (comms)

- Today 16 November, Defra is launching the [new Farming Investment Fund](#) which will offer funding for equipment, technology, and infrastructure that improves farm productivity and benefits the environment.
- This fund will provide grants to farmers, foresters and growers (including contractors to these sectors) helping them to focus on more efficient production methods that will reduce resource costs, improve yields, and give them a better return. It will also support farmers who want to process and add value to their existing products, create new products, or sell their produce directly to consumers.
- You can get a grant for a part of the total cost of investment which could include costs like equipment and technology, or on-farm water storage.
- There will be opportunities to apply for grants for both smaller investments - **The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund** and for larger investments – **The Farming Transformation Fund**.
- The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund will provide smaller grants to buy items from a set list of equipment and technology. It is based on the Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme. You can make an application online quickly and simply and if successful you will then be able to claim the reimbursement using your receipt.
- The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund will support investments from a prescribed list between £2k - £25k.
- Grants awarded from the Farming Transformation Fund have been based on the Countryside Productivity Large Grant scheme which was structured around a number of themes. The Fund will offer Grants between £35k - £500k.
- Today we are opening the Water Management theme dedicated to arable and horticultural businesses growing, or intending to grow, irrigated food crops, ornamentals or forestry nurseries.
- The Farming Transformation Fund, Water Management grants can be for capital items to improve farm productivity through more efficient use of water for irrigation, and to secure water supplies for crop irrigation by the construction of on-farm reservoirs and the adoption of best practice irrigation application equipment.
- With the help of farmers, we have developed a new [online eligibility checker](#) for Farming Transformation Fund applications, in order to improve the application experience for users.
- This is a new two-stage process, where applicants will be able to check in advance their project eligibility and suitability in relation to the scheme objectives. Projects that score highly enough against the scheme objectives will then be invited to make a full application. The eligibility checker for the Water Management Theme strand will open from 16 November through to 12 January 2022. The deadline to complete full applications, will be 30 June 2022.
- Future grants and additional themes will be available as part of this Fund.

Competition Name	Timing	Funding
<i>The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund</i>	<i>Launch 16 November 2021 Application deadline 12:00 noon 7th January 2022</i>	<i>£2k - £25k</i>
<i>The Farming Transformation Fund</i>	<i>Launch 16 November 2021 Online Eligibility checker open until 12th January 2022 Full application deadline 30 June 2022</i>	<i>£35k - £500k</i>

Farming Investment Fund & Animal Health and Welfare

- As part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway, we will be launching a new expanded grants offer late next year to co-fund investment in equipment, technology and infrastructure that will improve animal health and welfare. We will shortly be launching an online suggestions box to give farmers, vets, academics and other industry stakeholders the opportunity to suggest which capital items are included. While we finalise the full offer, we will continue to fund items from Countryside Productivity Small Grant that improve animal health and welfare through FETF.

Farming Investment Fund & Slurry management

- We have also provided farmers with an important initial offer to upgrade their slurry management systems through an expanded slurry equipment offer. Offering strong environmental benefit, we will build on this through the offer of grants for additional infrastructure and equipment as part of future rounds of the Fund.
- We know that some farmers face financial barriers to investing in good slurry management. We think one part of the solution is to offer grant support for slurry equipment.
- Within the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund, we will be able to offer funding for separation, scraping and precision-spreading techniques, enabling farmers to start making upgrades to their slurry systems.
- We want to ensure the offer better supports farmers to invest across their slurry journey, encouraging whole-farm planning and reducing scheme complexity and we are working in co-design to achieve this.

Second-hand kit

- We are unable to fund second-hand kit as this can vary significantly in quality and as such, we would be unable to establish a standard cost for these items. In addition, all new items would be expected to comply with the relevant Health and Safety regulations.