



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# The Agricultural Transition Period

An overview of changes to English agricultural policy  
2021-2027



# Contents

1. Overview of the Agricultural Transition
2. Changes to Direct Payments
3. Environmentally sustainable farming
4. Available farming schemes
5. Changes to regulation and enforcement

# Introduction to the Agricultural Transition

We will support farmers and land managers to:

- improve the environment
- improve animal health and welfare
- reduce carbon emissions and store more carbon
- support resilience to climate change risks
- make their businesses sustainable

Focus on achieving outcomes

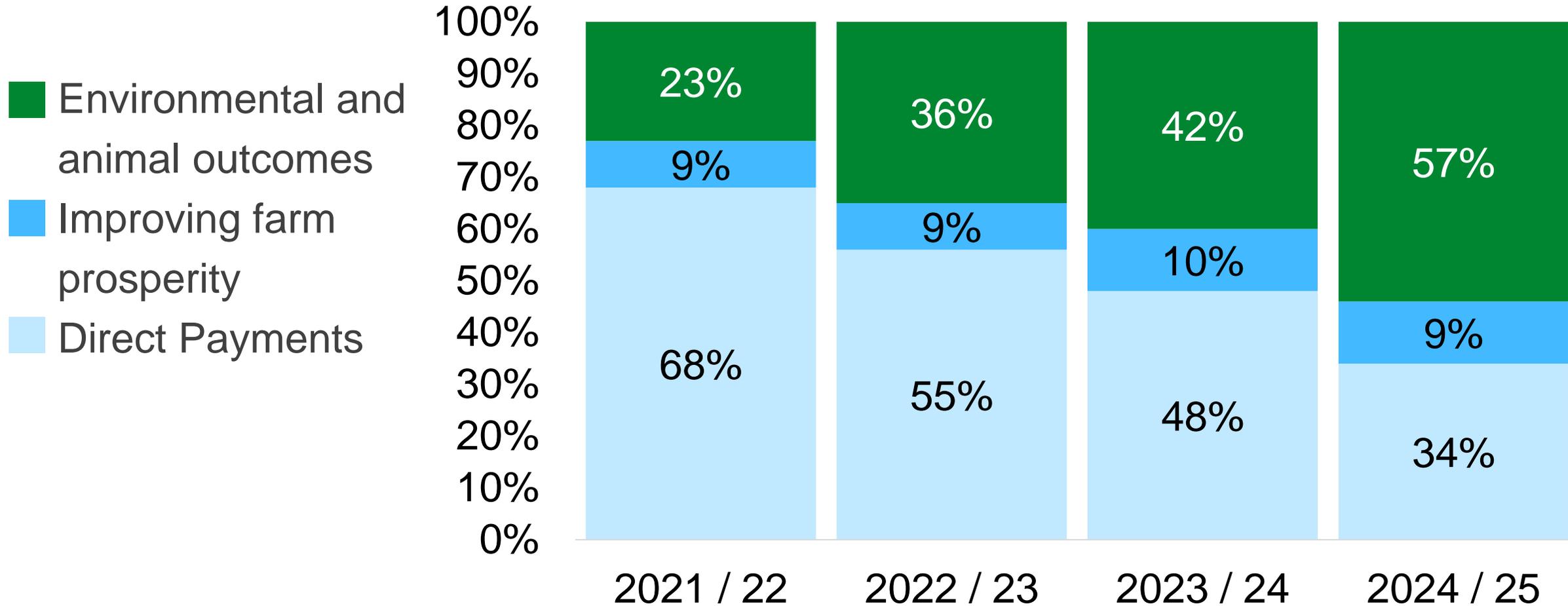
Will look and feel different. Evolution, not revolution

We will make changes from 2021 to 2027.

# Selected outcomes

- Bring up to 60% of England's agricultural soil under sustainable management through our schemes by 2030
- We will decarbonise agricultural emissions by up to a total of 6 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e per annum in Carbon Budget 6 (2033-2037) in England
- We will maintain our target levels of woodland creation and restoration to 2030 and beyond
- Restore and maintain up to 200,000 hectares of peatland in England by 2050
- Farmers and land managers will play an essential role in halting the decline in species, including farmland birds and insects, by 2030
- Improved agricultural productivity
- Production of food
- Create or restore up to 300,000 hectares of habitat by 2042
- Bring over half our Sites of Special Scientific Interest into favourable condition by 2042
- Contribute to:
  - Nature Recovery Network
  - target to protect 30% of our land for nature by 2030
  - Targets for cleaner water, including reaching or exceeding objectives for rivers, lakes, coastal and ground waters that are specially protected, whether for biodiversity, bathing/public use or drinking water as per our River Basin Management Plans
  - Support the restoration of rivers, lakes and other freshwater habitats

# Changes in funding



# Changes to Direct Payments

## 2021 simplifications

Removal of greening rules.

Removal of entitlement usage rule.

Simplified arrangements for farmers with land in England and another part of the UK.

Extension of deadline for farmers to apply for force majeure.

## Delinked and lump sum payments

We plan to 'delink' payments – we will remove the requirement to farm the land.

We plan to delink payments in 2024.

Looking to offer a one-off lump exit scheme.

We have consulted industry on the details of delinking and lump sum payments and will publish a response soon.

# Environmental land management schemes

<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.

# Sustainable Farming Incentive

Aimed at farmers, paying for actions that relate to farming activities.

Successful when we can see:

- 70% of farms and farmland in the scheme by 2028
- farmers increasing their coverage and levels of ambition over time
- evidence of our ambitious outcomes



# Local Nature Recovery

“The improved and more ambitious successor to the Countryside Stewardship scheme in England”

Taking the best of Countryside Stewardship, and adding more elements



# Collaboration, agreements and monitoring

Flexible, multi-year agreements.

Mostly individual agreements but supporting collaboration.

More supportive and less punitive approach to checking compliance.



# Landscape Recovery

Aimed at landowners and managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach to producing environmental and climate goods on their land.

Initial focus on biodiversity, water quality and net zero.

Open to any individuals or groups who want to deliver 500 – 5000ha scale projects.



# Pilot projects

2 rounds over the next 2 years – launching the application process for the first round of up to 15 pilot projects shortly.

First round focused on:

- recovering and restoring England's threatened native species
- restoring England's streams and rivers

Second round planned for next year.

# Annual Health and Welfare Review

Yearly farm visit from a vet or vet-led team.

Initially available to farmers in England who are eligible for BPS and who keep more than 50 pigs, 20 sheep or 10 cattle.



# Additional new schemes

- Farming Investment Fund
- Future Farming Resilience Fund
- Farming Innovation Programme
- Farming in Protected Landscapes
- Woodland planting



# Changes to regulation and enforcement

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

As we make improvements to the regulatory baseline, we will:

- simplify
- be proportionate
- support and enable
- prioritise
- use evidence

The new regulatory approach will be implemented in 2024.

# How farmers can get involved

- Take part in stakeholder workshops
- Send views to farming organisations, who we work with
- Apply for scheme pilots
- Share your views during consultations
- Be involved in co-design – [ffcpcodesign@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ffcpcodesign@defra.gov.uk)

Sign up to the Defra [e-alert](#) and [subscribe to our blog](#) to hear about opportunities to contribute.

**Any questions?**

