



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING



The European
Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development:
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Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Countryside Stewardship Water Capital Grants 2015/16

Key dates and information for 2015/16

Key Information for 2015/16

- £10 million is available for the Water Capital Grants this year.
- The application window will be open from 2 March 2015 to 30 April 2015
- The scheme is available in 77 catchments throughout England. Applicants can use Defra's online tool to see if their holding is in the catchment area by checking www.magic.gov.uk
- The guidance covers the scheme rules and specifications for each capital item.
- The maximum available grant per holding is £10,000.
- A fixed payment rate has been set for each capital item. Capital works will still need to be completed and paid for in full before a claim can be submitted.
- Applicants must provide a Single Business Identifier (SBI) in addition to a vendor number to enable Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to make payments
- The scheme is competitive and not all good quality applications will receive an offer of funding.
- Applications from outside priority catchments will not be accepted. Grants will also not be available outside catchment sensitive farming (CSF) target areas and applications will not be accepted.
- If there is a high over subscription to the grant scheme, priority will be given to applications which:
 - Best meet the scheme's priorities and will deliver the greatest environmental benefit. Each priority catchment has an individually tailored Funding Priority Statement which lists ten priority capital items of equal merit to help reduce target pollutants in each catchment;
 - Are new applicants; and
 - Are in a catchment which is failing bathing water standards or a Natura 2000 (N2k) protected area site as identified in the Funding Priority Statement.
- Applicants must send any advice or consent they receive from them with their application. With permission from Natural England, advice and consent can be received up until 29 May 2015; applicants can discuss this with their local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer.
- Applicants will be required to supply photos (before works are carried out) with their application form. The photos will be used as evidence to support the initial application and demonstrate the suitability of ground conditions. When taking a photo they need to use permanent marker posts to capture the location from which a photo was taken e.g. a building, a tree. Each photo must be clearly numbered and cross-referenced with a map showing the position the photos were taken from, the number of the photo and an arrow indicating the direction of the shot. The photos should be submitted as colour prints (at least 6"x4"). The photos must have a date on them either digitally stamped on them or hand

written on the back of the photo; however geotagging is no longer needed.

- Applicants **MUST NOT** purchase any materials, goods or services or start any work before they have been formally offered an agreement in writing by Natural England and have returned a signed copy of the offer letter to Natural England. Failure to do so, will mean that the application will be deemed as invalid and will be rejected.

Key dates for 2015/16

- Natural England aim to inform applicants if they have been successful by 30 June 2015.
- Claims with supporting photographs to be received by 29 January 2016. Only one claim will be allowed.
- Natural England aims to pay claims from January 2016 onwards.
- Grant aided capital item(s) must be kept in the original agricultural use for which it/they were installed for five years from the date of final payment'.



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