

Dave Ashford

The Sustainable Farming Scheme



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Sustainable Farming Scheme Outline Proposals for 2025

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Purpose

Purpose of the publication

- farmer focused document “bringing Sustainable Land Management to life”
- information on the Scheme – including the structure; actions; & process
- demonstrate to the Senedd how Welsh Ministers plan to use the powers of support which will be set out in the Agriculture (Wales) Bill
- provide the basis for farmer and stakeholder engagement through the next phase of co-design

SLM Objectives

To deliver Sustainable Land Management the Scheme must **simultaneously**:

1. Sustainable production of food
2. Respond to climate emergency
3. Reverse the decline in biodiversity
4. Protect the countryside and cultural resources, and to promote public access

Taking a **land sharing** approach through nature and climate friendly farming

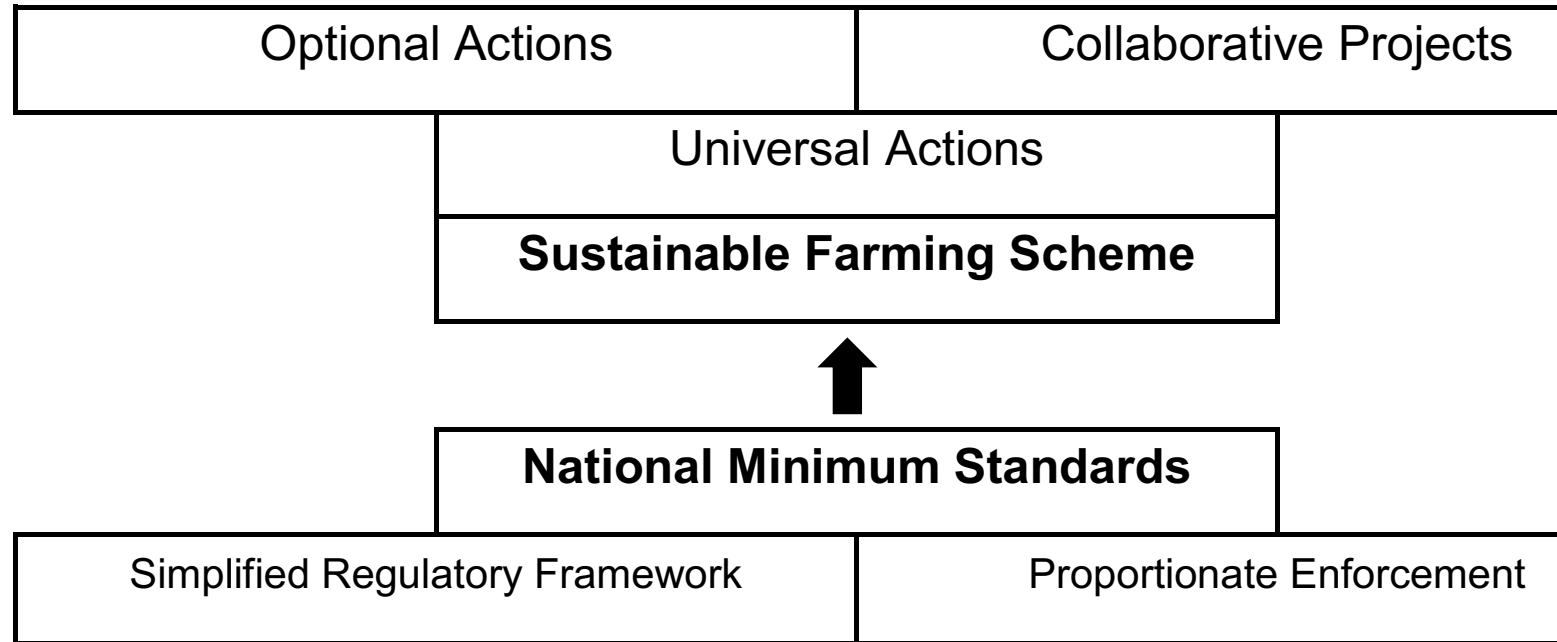
SLM Outcomes

- Clean air
- Clean water
- Mitigate flood and drought risk
- Enhanced access and engagement
- High animal health and welfare
- Maximise carbon storage
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Resource efficient
- Resilient ecosystems
- Protect natural landscapes and historic environment

Design Principles

- We must keep farmers on the land
- Food production is vital for our nation
- We should help build a prosperous and resilient agriculture industry
- Future support should maximise all SLM outcomes
- All farmers should be able to access the Scheme

Scheme Structure



Characteristics

The scheme will support farms to carry out actions so that farms in Wales are:

- Resilient and productive
- Reduce farm emissions and maximise carbon sequestration
- Reduce, reuse and recycle inputs, nutrients and waste
- Protect and enhance the farm ecosystem
- Benefit people, animals and place

Example Universal Actions

Manage an optimising farm performance through measuring and monitoring

- Benchmarking against KPIs

Make best use of artificial fertiliser through nutrient management and soil testing

- Chemical, biological and physical assessment of soils

Improving animal efficiency through an Animal Health Improvement Cycle

- Carry out actions, identified by working closely with their vet

Create new and manage existing agro-forestry and woodland through active management

- Have at least 10% tree cover, managed in line with the [UK Forestry Standard](#)

Manage habitats and species: Habitat maintenance and creation

- Have to have at least 10% of their land and practices benefiting nature.

Process

Registration

Eligibility criteria (farmer undertaking agricultural activities, ability to perform the Universal Actions, 3 ha, land in Wales)

Sustainability review – basic farm info, baseline carbon and habitat review

Action selection – confirm Universal Actions, add Optional/Collaborative Actions

Application – submission

Contract – outline commitment and detail payment

Scheme Rules – administration and governance

Payment – per hectare baseline payment

Monitoring and Checking – verifying actions/evidence, RPW checking

Reporting and Evaluating – outcome delivery, scheme success

Transition

2022-2025 Prepare and Pilot Phase

Preparing – supporting farmers to be in the best position to enter the SFS, perform the actions and maximise the financial opportunities it presents

Piloting – testing elements of the scheme for their feasibility and to inform the process

Delivering – continuing to deliver outcomes in the interim period

2025-2029 Transition Phase

Stabilising – provide farmers with the much needed stability and avoiding any cliff edge in funding

Incentivising – encouraging early uptake in the SFS through preferential funding structure

Delivering – further deliver outcomes through the SFS

Codesign

Online survey for farmers – closes 31st October

Feedback form for organisations, groups and other agricultural representatives – closes 31st October.

All Sustainable Farming Scheme information;

[Sustainable Farming Scheme | GOV.WALES](#)