

Preparing for the future of agricultural support

Carbon Audits

Agricultural support in Scotland is changing. From 2025, new conditionality will start to be introduced to agricultural payments, targeted towards biodiversity gain and a drive to low carbon approaches.

Scottish Government is helping farmers and crofters prepare for these changes. This includes support of £500 towards having a Carbon Audit performed for your business if you do not have one already, or where the current Carbon Audit is more than 3 years old.

Why conduct a carbon audit?

A carbon audit establishes your business's carbon footprint. It identifies the sources and quantities of greenhouse gas emissions on farms and areas where simple changes can lead to improved efficiency, reduced operating costs and emissions.

Who is eligible for support?

Any farming or crofting business that is Rural Payments and Services online registered, with an active Business Reference Number can claim.

The Carbon Audit must be completed between 1st January to the 31st December of the scheme year with the option to claim up to the end of February the following year. It must have been reviewed by and include recommendations from a Farm Business Adviser Accreditation Scheme for Scotland (FBAASS) adviser/associate on actions that can be taken that will reduce emissions.

What recommendations might I get?

The type of recommendations from a carbon audit could include information on improving productivity, increasing use of renewable energy, more efficient use of fertiliser or increasing the area of carbon sinks.

Is it easy to claim?

The online claims process is quick and easy to use and can be accessed through the Preparing for Sustainable Farming Guidance page at www.ruralpayments.org. You simply need to provide; the date of completion, the name of your business, the FBAASS adviser, registration number and the carbon emissions result of the carbon audit measured in Kilos or Tonnes of CO₂e.

Where can I find more information

You can find more information from the Preparing for Sustainable Farming guidance at www.ruralpayments.org. Scan the QR code below to go straight to the guidance.

Duncan McEwen, Arnprior Farm



“ We conducted a carbon audit as we were keen to see how the business had transitioned from a previous one. I already had all the data so just had to fill in the boxes. We have used the carbon audit data to try to gain efficiencies and have managed to make some cost savings with fertiliser use. Claiming was surprisingly simple too. A couple of clicks and that was it done! ”

Arnprior is a progressive family farm with sheep, cattle, arable and a pumpkin patch. With a focus on diversification, the farm also offers a lambing experience, glamping and swimming. Visit www.arnpriorfarm.com

