

# Preparing for the future of agricultural support

## Animal Health and Welfare

**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 £1250 over two years towards having Animal Health and Welfare interventions performed for your business.**

### Why conduct Animal Health and Welfare interventions?

The aim of this option is to encourage livestock keepers in Scotland to improve the health and welfare of their cattle and sheep, regardless of the size of their business or current health status. It is a “starter package” to prompt a review of your flock or herd, and to help you consider health and welfare interventions that improve performance.

Improved health results in better production efficiency, which means lower greenhouse gas emissions per kg of output. Healthier animals are more productive, require less veterinary intervention and have better welfare than their under-performing counterparts.

### Who is eligible for support?

Any farming or crofting business that has an active Business Reference Number, is Rural Payments and Services online registered, and has a flock/herd number (this indicates you are a Registered Keeper with Animal and Plant Health) can choose to undertake up to two interventions in each scheme year of the Programme. Each intervention would attract a standard payment of £250. With the first claim you will additionally be paid £250 to cover personal development.

### 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](http://www.ruralpayments.org). You simply need to provide; the date of completion, the name of your business, your flock/herd number and some general questions. A signed Expert advisor form must be uploaded at point of claim as evidence that the intervention has been performed, which provides the evidence that we require to allow a payment to be made. Claims functionality will be available by September 23.

### Where can I find more information?

You can find more information in the Preparing for Sustainable Farming guidance at [www.ruralpayments.org](http://www.ruralpayments.org). Scan the QR code on the reverse of this leaflet to go straight to the guidance. For more assistance please contact your local Area Office.

## What interventions are available to claim?

You can select a maximum of two interventions per year from the table below.

Intervention	<b>Summary of investigations</b> For more details, see online guidance	<b>Outline of actions that may be required</b> For more details, see online guidance
<b>1.</b> Bull fertility	Bull pre-breeding examination to British Cattle Veterinary Association standard	Vet treatment followed by re-testing and/or culling as needed
<b>2.</b> Calf respiratory disease	Calf respiratory investigation +/- virus screen	Implement sustainable prevention and control plan, including biosecurity measures where relevant, using appropriate expert advice
<b>3.</b> Cattle: liver fluke	Liver fluke investigation: Faecal Egg Count on sentinel animals and flukicide efficacy testing	Implement sustainable prevention and control plan, including biosecurity measures where relevant, using appropriate expert advice
<b>4.</b> Cattle: roundworms	Gastrointestinal parasite (roundworm) investigation: Faecal Egg Count and wormer efficacy testing	Implement sustainable prevention and control plan, including biosecurity measures where relevant, using appropriate expert advice
<b>5.</b> Sheep scab	Screen 12 animals per management group (or all animals in group less than 12) to determine sheep scab status of whole flock.	Implement sustainable prevention and control plan that avoids unnecessary treatment, including biosecurity measures where relevant, using appropriate expert advice
<b>6.</b> Sheep: iceberg diseases	Targeted disease investigation (options: Maedi Visna, Johnes, Border Disease, Contagious Lymphadenitis, lung scanning for OPA). Screen cull ewes.	Implement sustainable prevention and control plan, including biosecurity measures for screening and/or isolating purchased and returning stock, using appropriate expert advice
<b>7.</b> Sheep: lameness	Flock lameness assessment by vet: identify conditions and their prevalence within the flock	Implement sustainable prevention and control plan, including biosecurity measures where relevant, using appropriate expert advice
<b>8.</b> Sheep: liver fluke	Liver fluke: Faecal Egg Count on sentinel animals and flukicide efficacy testing	Implement sustainable prevention and control plan, including biosecurity measures where relevant, using appropriate expert advice
<b>9.</b> Sheep: roundworms	Gastrointestinal parasite (worm) investigation (Faecal Egg Count and wormer efficacy testing)	Implement sustainable prevention and control plan, including biosecurity measures where relevant, using appropriate expert advice

For more information and full guidance on support available for conducting carbon audits and other Preparing for Sustainable Farming support, scan the QR code or visit [www.ruralpayments.org](http://www.ruralpayments.org)

