Future Farming Investment Scheme 2026 Eligible Capital Investments Guide

Guide Updates:

Date	Investment	Update
04 November 2026	Riparian fencing	Clarified that fences must be positioned at least 5 metres from the top of the watercourse bank.
04 November 2026	Soil and weather monitoring package	Clarified that the digital weather station and soil penetrometer may be purchased separately and from different suppliers.
28 October 2026	Subsoiler	Specification updated to remove requirements for cutting discs and rear roller and allow different types of leg protection.
27 October 2026	Liquid fertiliser applicator for seed drills and planters.	Minimum working width requirement removed to allow systems suitable for different seed drills and planters.
27 October 2026	Retrofit GPS assisted steering system.	Eligibility of GPS/GNSS receiver and displays clarified.
27 October 2026	Handheld and static EID livestock readers.	Specification clarified to include UHF compatibility for devices intended for cattle and connectivity requirements.
27 October 2026	Waste milk and colostrum pasteuriser.	Specification clarified to include mobile systems that meet the full pasteurisation specification
27 October 2026	Automatic cattle drafting/shedding gate.	New capital investment added.
27 October 2026	Cattle squeeze crush.	New capital investment added.
27 October 2026	Spot spraying system.	Minimum specification clarified.
27 October 2026	How applications are scored and ranked.	Clarified how Total Eligible Cost is calculated for Maximum Cost and standard Cost investments, and how it is used to score and rank applications.
27 October 2026	General.	Clarification added on how maximum costs are used to calculate grant.

Part 1 – About this Guide 1
Part 2 – Eligible Capital Investments 7
Grazing and Grassland Management 8
Portable electric fencing system for rotational grazing 8
Pasture plate meter 10
Water bowser with integrated livestock drinking trough 11
Pasture pump 13
Solar-powered livestock water pump 14
Protective matting for grazing areas 16
Bale unroller for grazing systems 17
Virtual livestock fencing 18
Grassland aerator 20
Grassland sward lifter 21
Grassland overseeder and rejuvenator 23
Weed wiper 24
Environmental Land Management and Protection 26
Native hedge planting and hedge gapping up 26
Native tree planting for agroforestry 28
Individual tree protection 29
Pond creation for wildlife 31
Protective stock fencing for tree establishment 32
Protective stock fencing for hedge establishment 32
Protective stock fencing for pond creation 32
Riparian fencing 34
Mechanical bracken roller 36
Pedestrian-operated bracken roller 37
Soil Health and Reduced Cultivation 38
Direct drill 38
Strip till drill 40
Minimum tillage cultivator 42
Precision camera-guided inter-row hoe 43
Subsoiler 45
Tractor-mounted stubble rake 46
Cover crop air seeder 48
Cover crop roller/crimper 49

Precision Farming Crop and Grassland Management 51
GPS field guidance system 51
Retrofit GPS assisted steering system 53
Variable rate and section controller 54
Automatic spray boom height control 56
Spot spraying system 58
Camera-guided inter-row sprayer 59
Crop sensing and variable rate application system 61
Yield monitoring system 62
Closed transfer system for pesticides 64
Crop Nitrogen sensor 66
Liquid fertiliser applicator for seed drills and planters 67
Soil and weather monitoring package 69
Central tyre inflation system 71
Handheld NIR analyser 73
Slurry Management 75
Slurry separator 75
Onboard NIR slurry analyser 77
Flow rate monitoring system for slurry application 79
Fixed or tensioned ring tank slurry cover 80
Energy and Resource Efficiency 82
UV water treatment system 83
Rainwater harvesting and water storage system 84
Variable speed drive system for dairy pumps 86
Plate cooler for milk cooling 88
Heat recovery unit for agricultural refrigeration systems 89
Livestock Management and Animal Health 91
Handheld EID livestock reader 91
Automatic EID vaccination gun 93
Automatic EID drench and pour-on gun 94
Static EID panel reader 96
Electronic weigh bars for sheep 98
Electronic weigh bars for cattle 99
Automatic cattle weighing and monitoring system 101
Automatic cattle drafting/shedding gate 103

Automatic sheep weighing and drafting system 105
Electronic sheep weigh crate 107
Sheep handler / turnover crate 109
Mobile sheep handling system 110
Mobile cattle handling system 112
Cattle squeeze crush 114
Electronic cattle heat and health monitoring system 116
Calving detection system 118
Milk yield and conductivity meter 119
Waste milk and colostrum pasteuriser 121
Automatic calf rearing system 123
Automatic lamb rearing system 124
On-farm faecal egg counting system 125

Part 1 – About this Guide

1. Purpose of this Guide

This Guide forms part of the **Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS) 2026 Scheme Guidance**.

It provides detailed information about each eligible capital investment available through FFIS 2026, including:

- what the investment is intended to achieve;
- the minimum specification it must meet;
- the Item Score;
- the Maximum Cost or Standard Cost used to calculate grant;
- any specific requirements or restrictions;
- the expected benefits of the investment; and
- other eligible investments you may wish to consider, where relevant.

You should read the information for each capital investment you intend to include in your application.

Capital investments must meet the published minimum specification and all applicable requirements set out in **this Guide and the FFIS 2026 Scheme Guidance**.

2. How to use this Guide

Eligible capital investments are grouped into categories to help you identify investments that may be suitable for your agricultural business.

Each capital investment is presented using a common format:

- **About this investment** – what the investment is intended to achieve.
- **Suitable farm types** – the types of farm and croft businesses for which the investment may be suitable.
- **Item Score** – the published score used to calculate your Application Score.
- **Maximum Cost or Standard Cost** – the cost used to calculate grant.
- **Minimum specification** – the minimum requirements the investment must meet to be eligible.
- **Not eligible** – investments not eligible
- **Important information** – any additional requirements, restrictions or exclusions that apply.
- **Expected benefits** – the benefits the investment is expected to deliver.
- **Other investments you may wish to consider** – other eligible investments that may complement the investment, where relevant.

You may apply for any combination of eligible capital investments that meets the needs of your agricultural business, subject to the **FFIS 2026 Scheme Guidance** and the maximum grant available.

3. How applications are scored and ranked

Each eligible investment has an Item Score published in the Capital Investment Guide. Item Scores reflect the expected relative contribution of the investment to the FFIS objectives.

Each eligible application receives one Application Score. This is a cost-weighted average of the Item Scores for all eligible investments in the application.
Total Eligible Cost is:

- for a Maximum Cost investment, the lower of the cost entered in the application and the item's published Maximum Cost;
- for a Standard Cost investment, the eligible quantity multiplied by the published Standard Cost.

To calculate the Application Score, multiply each investment's Item Score by its Total Eligible Cost. Add the results together, then divide by the Total Eligible Cost of all eligible investments.

Grant rates and the £20,000 maximum grant are applied separately and do not affect the Application Score. An application with one eligible investment receives that investment's Item Score.

If assessment changes an eligible investment, quantity or cost, SGRPID will recalculate the Application Score before ranking.

Worked example: single-item application

Investment	**Cost entered**	**Maximum Cost**	**Item Score**	**Total Eligible Cost**	**Item Score x Total Eligible Cost**
Cover crop roller/crimper	£7,900	£8,000	4.1	£7,900	£32,390
Application total	**£7,900**				**£32,390**

Application Score: £32,390 / £7,900 = 4.1

Worked example: multi-item application

Investment	**Cost entered**	**Maximum Cost**	**Item Score**	**Total Eligible Cost**	**Item Score x Total Eligible Cost**
Cover crop roller/crimper	£7,900	£8,000	4.1	£7,900	£32,390
Variable rate and section controller	£5,999	£5,500	4.5	£5,500	£24,750

GPS field guidance system	£1,550	£1,750	3.1	£1,550	£4,805
Application total	£15,449			**£14,950**	**£61,945**

Application Score: £61,945 / £14,950 = 4.14

The Application Score shown in this example has been rounded to two decimal places for simplicity. When applications are ranked, SGRPID will use the full calculated Application Score before rounding. This allows applications with very similar scores to be ranked accurately.

All eligible investments contribute to the Application Score according to their share of Total Eligible Cost. The grant rate is applied separately and does not affect the score or ranking.

Your Application Score or ranking position will not be displayed when you apply.

Ranking applications

Eligible applications will be ranked from highest to lowest Application Score, using the full calculated score. Where two or more applications have exactly the same score, ties will be resolved in the following order:

- the application with the lower sum of Total Eligible Costs across all eligible investments;
- preference to a business that did not receive an FFIS 2025 grant payment.

Funding the ranked applications

Funding will be considered in the final applicable ranking order.

An application will only be funded if enough budget remains to meet its Total Grant Value in full. If there is not enough budget for the next ranked application, that application and all lower-ranked applications will be unsuccessful. Any remaining budget will not be used to fund a smaller application ranked below it.

For this purpose, Total Grant Value is the total grant calculated for all eligible investments in the application, subject to the £20,000 maximum grant.

Important

Your Application Score and ranking position do not guarantee funding. Funding is limited and will be awarded according to the final allocation method and ranking order applied under these rules.

4. Understanding Maximum Costs and Standard Costs

Every eligible capital investment has either a published **Maximum Cost** or **Standard Cost**.

Maximum Cost

A Maximum Cost is the maximum amount of eligible expenditure that can be used to calculate grant for an investment.

Where the actual cost is lower than the published Maximum Cost, grant will be calculated using the lower amount.

You may purchase an investment that costs more than the Maximum Cost, but any amount above the Maximum Cost will not receive grant support.

Standard Cost

A Standard Cost is a fixed amount used to calculate grant for a specified unit, such as each item, linear metre or square metre.

For Standard Cost investments, grant is calculated using the eligible quantity approved multiplied by the published Standard Cost.

The applicable grant rate is then applied.

Full details of how your grant is calculated are set out in the **FFIS 2026 Scheme Guidance**.

5. Grant rates

The grant rate depends on the investment and the applicant.

Investment	**Grant rate**
Specified environmental investments	100%
All other investments – qualifying new entrant businesses	80%
All other investments – qualifying Highlands and Islands businesses	60%
All other eligible businesses	50%

Where more than one grant rate could apply, the highest applicable rate will be applied to the eligible investment.

Your grant rate will be determined in accordance with the eligibility requirements set out in the **FFIS 2026 Scheme Guidance**.

Grant rates and grant amounts do not affect Item Scores or the calculation of the Application Score.

6. Complete operational capital investments

Unless otherwise stated, an eligible capital investment includes the components normally supplied and required for the investment to operate for its intended agricultural purpose.

This may include incidental fittings, connectors, mounting hardware, cables, hoses or other connection components supplied as part of the eligible investment.

Labour costs associated with assembling, fitting, installing, commissioning or maintaining an eligible investment are not eligible for support.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the following are also not eligible:

- wider infrastructure works;
- civil engineering or groundworks;
- permanent utility connections;
- trenching or excavation;
- routine servicing or maintenance; and
- replacement parts purchased separately from the eligible investment.

You should read the **Minimum Specification** and **Important information** for each investment, as additional requirements or exclusions may apply.

7. Evidence requirements

FFIS grant is paid before the approved capital investment is purchased or completed.

You must subsequently provide evidence that every approved investment, and the full approved quantity, has been purchased or completed and, where applicable, installed and is operational.

The evidence required depends on whether the investment uses a **Maximum Cost** or **Standard Cost**.

Investments using a Maximum Cost

You will normally be required to provide:

- invoices;
- proof of payment;
- geotagged photographs; and
- serial or unique identifier numbers, where applicable.

The evidence will be used to verify the eligible cost of the investment. Where the grant paid is more than the amount supported by the verified eligible cost, the difference will be recovered.

Any additional evidence required for an individual investment is identified in this Guide.

Investments using a Standard Cost

You do not need to provide invoices or proof of payment for investments supported using a Standard Cost.

You must provide evidence to demonstrate that the full approved quantity, length or area has been completed to the required specification.

Unless the individual investment page states otherwise, this must include:

- geotagged photographs taken before work starts; and
- geotagged photographs taken after the investment has been completed.

You must also provide any additional evidence specified for the individual investment.

The grant will be reconciled against the eligible quantity, length or area completed, up to the quantity approved in your Offer of Grant. Where the grant paid is more than the amount supported by the verified eligible quantity, length or area completed, the difference will be recovered.

Whole Farm Plan evidence

All successful applicants must provide evidence of the two qualifying Whole Farm Plan audits or plans that apply to their FFIS application.

You must provide the front page of each of the two qualifying audits or plans. Each front page must show:

- the name of the audit or plan;
- the business name; and
- the date it was prepared.

If you claimed Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) in 2026, the two audits or plans must correspond with those declared on your 2026 Single Application Form (SAF) and meet the applicable preparation-date requirements:

- Soil Analysis, Biodiversity Audit and Carbon Audit must have been prepared between 15 May 2021 and 15 May 2026 inclusive; and
- Animal Health and Welfare Plans and Integrated Pest Management Plans must have been prepared between 15 May 2025 and 15 May 2026 inclusive.

An audit or plan without a preparation date, outside the relevant period or prepared after 15 May 2026 will not count towards the requirement.

If you did not claim BPS but submitted a SAF to claim other agricultural support, you must complete at least two qualifying Whole Farm Plan audits or plans before submitting your FFIS evidence.

You may use any two qualifying Whole Farm Plan audits or plans.

You do not need to provide the full audit or plan unless SGRPID asks you to do so.

Full evidence requirements, submission requirements and timescales are set out in the FFIS 2026 Scheme Guidance.

Important

All other agricultural support payments will remain on hold until your complete FFIS evidence has been assessed and verified, and SGRPID has confirmed that the conditions of your FFIS grant have been met.

Return to contents page

Part 2 – Eligible Capital Investments

This section provides details of the capital investments available under the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS), including the purpose of each investment, minimum eligibility requirements and any specific conditions that apply.

You should read the full entry for each investment you intend to apply for, including the **Minimum specification** and **important information**.

Only investments that meet the published specification and applicable scheme requirements are eligible for support.

Unless otherwise stated, investments must be **new and unused** and purchased as a complete, operational investment.

Where an investment includes electronic functionality, software or connected technology, one-off activation or software enablement costs required to operate the eligible functionality may be included. Where specifically required to operate the eligible investment, the first year's subscription or licence fee may also be eligible.

Ongoing subscriptions, licence renewals, connectivity charges and software support costs after the first year are not eligible.

Where equipment could reasonably fall under more than one eligible capital investment, you should apply under the investment that best reflects its primary function.

Capital funded under FFIS must be purchased for use in the applicant's own agricultural business. Machinery or equipment purchased for use wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses is not eligible.

Return to contents page

Grazing and Grassland Management

Category overview

Investments in this category support improved grazing and grassland management, pasture productivity and the efficient use of grazing resources.

They are intended to help farmers and crofters make better use of available grass, improve soil and sward condition, **manage weeds**, manage livestock access to grazing and water, and support more productive and resilient pasture-based livestock systems.

The investments within this category contribute towards one or more of the Future Farming Investment Scheme objectives by improving business efficiency and sustainability, protecting and enhancing the environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting resilience to climate change.

Return to contents page

Portable electric fencing system for rotational grazing

About this investment

Enables grazing land to be divided into smaller grazing areas using portable electric fencing to support rotational grazing. This helps farmers and crofters manage livestock more effectively, make better use of grazed grass and adapt grazing management to changing pasture conditions.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 2.4

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £850

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **complete portable electric fencing system** including:

- a minimum of **50 temporary fencing stakes**;
- **3 reels or spools** suitable for electric fencing;
- **1 reel mounting post capable of holding a minimum of 3 reels**;
- **3 insulated gate handles or end assemblies**;
- a minimum of **1,200 metres of electric fence wire, braided wire or polywire**;
- a **solar-powered electric fencing energiser with integrated solar panel and battery**, with a minimum output of **0.5 joules**; and

- all fixings, connectors, earthing equipment and accessories necessary to install and operate the system as intended.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system suitable for rotational grazing**.

Not eligible

- Permanent boundary fencing is not eligible.
- Mains-powered energisers are not eligible.
- Spare or replacement batteries, additional energisers and additional charging equipment are not eligible.
- Replacement or additional fencing components purchased to extend or repair an existing portable electric fencing system are not eligible.

Important information

- All components listed in the minimum specification must be purchased as part of the eligible system.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve grazing management and make more effective use of available pasture;
- maintain healthier and more productive grass swards through rotational grazing;
- reduce overgrazing and soil poaching in heavily used grazing areas; and
- support more resilient pasture-based livestock systems.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Pasture plate meter**, to support grassland management and grazing decisions.
- **Water bowser with integrated livestock drinking trough**, to provide a mobile livestock drinking water supply.
- **Solar-powered livestock water pump**, where an off-grid livestock drinking water supply is required.
- **Grassland aerator**, where improving grassland condition is part of the grazing system.
- **Grassland overseeder and rejuvenator**, to improve the condition and productivity of existing grassland.

Return to contents page

Pasture plate meter

About this investment

Provides a practical method of measuring and recording grass cover to support improved grassland management and grass utilisation. Regular measurement helps farmers and crofters assess grass availability; plan grazing rotations and make better use of available grass.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 3.3

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £750

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **handheld electronic pasture plate meter** designed for agricultural grass-cover measurement.

The pasture plate meter must:

- measure grass cover using plate height measurements;
- electronically record measurements;
- be capable of storing measurements for individual grazing areas or paddocks;
- allow recorded data to be transferred to a computer, mobile device or compatible grassland management system; and
- include all components necessary to operate the pasture plate meter as intended.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for grass-cover measurement and grazing management.**

Not eligible

- Mechanical pasture plate meters that cannot electronically store and transfer measurements are not eligible.
- General measuring devices not specifically designed for agricultural grass-cover measurement are not eligible.
- Recurring subscriptions, annual licence fees, connectivity charges, software support packages and other ongoing service costs are not eligible.

Important information

- Where electronic functionality is included, one-off software activation or licence costs essential to operate the eligible capital investment are eligible.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.

- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve grassland management and grass utilisation;
- support more informed grazing and stocking decisions;
- improve the productivity and resilience of grassland; and
- help reduce reliance on conserved forage and purchased feed through more effective grassland management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Portable electric fencing system for rotational grazing**, to support managed grazing rotations.
- **Water bowser with integrated livestock drinking trough**, to provide drinking water within rotational grazing areas.
- **Grassland aerator**, where soil condition is limiting grassland performance.
- **Grassland overseeder and rejuvenator**, to improve the condition and productivity of existing grassland.

Return to contents page

Water bowser with integrated livestock drinking trough

About this investment

Provides a mobile supply of drinking water where access to a permanent water supply is unavailable or impractical. This can support rotational grazing, improve the use of grazing land and provide an alternative drinking water source to help reduce direct livestock access to watercourses.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 3.0

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £3,250

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **towable, road-legal agricultural water bowser with an integrated livestock drinking trough**.

The system must:

- have a minimum tank capacity of **1,100 litres**;
- include a water tank permanently fixed to the trailer or chassis;
- include an **integrated livestock drinking trough**;
- automatically supply water from the tank to the integrated drinking trough;
- include all fittings, valves and components necessary to operate the system; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- A separate trailer, water tank and livestock drinking trough purchased individually or assembled to create a system are not eligible.
- General-purpose water bowsers without an integrated livestock drinking trough are not eligible.
- **Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs), cube tanks, home-made or converted water bowsers are not eligible.**
- Replacement tanks, troughs, valves or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The water bowser must be designed for agricultural use and for supplying drinking water to livestock.
- The water bowser and livestock drinking trough must be purchased as a **single integrated system from a supplier or manufacturer**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- support rotational grazing where permanent water supplies are unavailable or impractical;
- improve livestock distribution across grazing areas;
- make more effective use of available grass;
- reduce grazing pressure and poaching around permanent drinking points;
- provide an alternative to direct livestock access to watercourses; and
- help reduce bank erosion and sediment entering watercourses.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Portable electric fencing system for rotational grazing**, to help create flexible grazing areas.

- **Pasture plate meter**, to support grassland management and grazing decisions.
- **Solar-powered livestock water pump**, where an off-grid livestock drinking water supply is required.
- **Riparian fencing**, where livestock are to be excluded from a watercourse.

Return to contents page

Pasture pump

About this investment

Provides a livestock-operated pump that allows animals to draw drinking water from a nearby water source without requiring a mains or powered water supply. This can provide an alternative drinking point and help reduce direct livestock access to watercourses.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 3.7

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £520

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise:

- a livestock-operated pasture pump designed to draw and provide drinking water from a suitable water source;
- a suitable intake or filter;
- the hose, fittings and connection components supplied as part of the complete pump system; and
- all components necessary to operate the system as intended.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system suitable for providing drinking water to livestock.**

Not eligible

- Additional pipework, permanent water supply infrastructure and installation costs are not eligible.
- Replacement pumps, hoses, filters or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The pasture pump must be designed for agricultural use and suitable for the livestock species for which it is intended.
- The water source must provide a reliable supply of water suitable for livestock.
- The number of pasture pumps purchased must be appropriate for the number and type of livestock they are intended to supply, taking account of the manufacturer's recommended livestock capacity;
- Any licences, permissions or consents required for installing or using the system are the responsibility of the applicant.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **4** per application.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- provide livestock with an alternative drinking water source;
- reduce direct livestock access to watercourses;
- protect watercourses and surrounding habitats; and
- support more flexible grazing management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Water bowser with integrated livestock drinking trough**, where a mobile drinking water supply is required.
- **Solar-powered livestock water pump**, where a powered alternative is required to supply drinking water from a suitable water source.
- **Riparian fencing and livestock exclusion system**, where livestock are to be excluded from a watercourse and an alternative drinking water source is provided.

Return to contents page

Solar-powered livestock water pump

About this investment

Provides a solar-powered water pump to supply drinking water for livestock from a suitable water source. This can provide an alternative drinking water supply where access to mains water or other permanent supplies is unavailable or impractical and help reduce direct livestock access to watercourses.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 3.7

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £3,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **solar-powered water pumping system suitable for supplying drinking water to livestock**.

The system must include:

- a minimum **12V water pump** suitable for supplying drinking water to livestock;
- one or more solar panels providing a minimum combined output of **180W**, with mounting equipment;
- a weatherproof control box;
- a **12V battery**;
- a filter on the water intake;
- all fittings and connection components necessary to operate the system; and
- an automatic pump shut off when water is not required.

The system must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- The livestock drinking trough and any concrete base are not included under this item.
- Pipe or hose beyond the **25 metres included as part of the eligible system** is not eligible.
- Additional permanent water supply infrastructure is not eligible.
- Permanent electrical connections are not eligible.
- Replacement pumps, solar panels, batteries, pipework, hoses or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The pump must supply a suitable livestock drinking trough.
- Where the system is used to provide an alternative to direct livestock access to a watercourse, the drinking trough must be situated at least **10 metres from the watercourse**.
- Any licences, permissions or consents required for water abstraction or installation are the responsibility of the applicant.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- provide an alternative livestock drinking water supply where permanent supplies are unavailable or impractical;
- reduce direct livestock access to watercourses;
- reduce poaching and bank erosion around watercourses;
- protect water quality by reducing sediment and other pollutants entering watercourses; and
- support more flexible grazing management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Portable electric fencing system for rotational grazing**, to support managed grazing systems.
- **Riparian fencing**, where livestock are to be excluded from a watercourse and an alternative drinking water supply is provided.

Return to contents page

Protective matting for grazing areas

About this investment

Provides a durable surface for existing gateways and other high-traffic grazing areas used by livestock. This helps protect grassland and soil from poaching and maintain access to grazing during wet conditions.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 2.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £15 per m²

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise:

- rubber or plastic protective matting designed for agricultural use in livestock grazing areas;
- matting that is perforated or otherwise designed to allow effective drainage; and
- all fixings and connection components necessary to install the matting as intended.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and suitable for protecting existing high-traffic grazing areas.**

Not eligible

- Turf reinforcement mesh, slat mats and matting designed primarily for use within livestock buildings are not eligible.
- Replacement sections of existing protective matting are not eligible.
- Groundworks, excavation, drainage and other installation costs are not eligible.

Important information

- The matting must be installed in **existing high-traffic grazing areas**, such as gateways, around livestock drinking points or other areas subject to repeated livestock movement.
- The area applied for must be entered in **square metres (m²)**.
- The maximum area that can be applied for is **100 m² per application**.
- Matting must **not** be used to create new access tracks, roadways or permanent routes.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce soil poaching in high-traffic grazing areas;
- reduce soil erosion and surface water run-off;
- protect grassland in heavily used livestock areas; and
- maintain access to grazing during wet conditions.

Return to contents page

Bale unroller for grazing systems

About this investment

Provides controlled distribution of baled forage across grazing areas. This helps farmers and crofters feed livestock more efficiently, reduce concentrated poaching around fixed feeding areas and improve the distribution of nutrients across grazed grassland.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 2.4

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £6,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise:

- a bale unroller designed for agricultural use;
- the capability to unroll and distribute baled forage across grazing areas; and
- all components necessary to operate the equipment as intended.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for feeding livestock at grass.**

Equipment intended primarily for bedding, such as straw bedders or choppers, **does not meet this requirement**.

Not eligible

- Indoor bale feeders, bale handlers and equipment designed only for transporting or moving bales are not eligible.
- A straw bedder/chopper is not eligible under this item.
- Replacement components purchased separately from the eligible capital investment are not eligible.

Important information

- The bale unroller must be designed for agricultural use.
- The equipment must be capable of distributing baled forage directly across grazing areas.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- support efficient feeding of livestock at grass;
- reduce soil poaching associated with fixed feeding locations;
- promote more even distribution of manure and nutrients across grazed grassland; and
- support more flexible management of grazing and supplementary feeding.

Return to contents page

Virtual livestock fencing

About this investment

Provides a GPS-enabled virtual fencing system to manage livestock grazing without the need for permanent physical fencing. This helps farmers and crofters manage grazing more flexibly, improve grassland utilisation and protect environmentally sensitive habitats and watercourses through targeted grazing.

Suitable farm types - Cattle, Sheep, Goats.

Item Score – 4.1

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £270 per collar

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise:

- GPS-enabled livestock collars suitable for the livestock species, size and weight for which they are intended;
- the capability to create and manage virtual grazing boundaries;
- batteries, chargers and associated hardware supplied as part of the system;
- all communications equipment, base stations or gateways necessary for the system to operate, where required; and
- the first **12 months of subscription or software access** required to operate the system, where applicable.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system suitable for virtual livestock fencing.**

Not eligible

- Ongoing subscription costs, licence renewals, connectivity charges and other recurring service costs after the first 12 months are not eligible.
- Replacement collars, batteries, chargers or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- A minimum of **5 collars** must be applied for.
- A maximum of **150 collars** can be applied for.
- Livestock fitted with collars must be appropriately trained before the system is used for routine grazing management.
- Virtual fencing must not be used in place of physical fencing where this could create an unacceptable risk to livestock, road users or public safety.
- The first 12 months of subscription or software access may be included within the Maximum Cost.
- Applicants must provide the serial or unique identifier numbers of the collars as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- support targeted and more flexible grazing management;
- improve grassland utilisation and pasture management;
- protect environmentally sensitive habitats and watercourses through controlled grazing;
- reduce the need for permanent physical fencing in appropriate locations; and
- improve the efficient management of pasture-based livestock systems.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Pasture plate meter**, to support grassland management and grazing decisions.
- **Water bowser with integrated livestock drinking trough**, to provide a mobile drinking water supply as grazing areas change.

Return to contents page

Grassland aerator

About this investment

Provides mechanical aeration of grassland to alleviate surface compaction and improve water infiltration, air movement and root development. This helps maintain productive grassland by improving soil conditions for grass growth.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 3.3

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £5,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **trailed or tractor-mounted grassland aerator**.

The grassland aerator must:

- have a minimum working width of **2.5 metres**;
- have perforators or blades with a minimum working depth of **100 mm**;
- be capable of carrying additional weight where required to assist penetration in dry or hard ground; and
- be designed to aerate established grassland without significant disturbance to the existing sward.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for grassland aeration.**

Not eligible

- Subsoilers and equipment primarily designed for deep cultivation are not eligible under this item.
- Replacement blades, tines, rollers or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The grassland aerator must be designed specifically for use on established grassland.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the equipment serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- alleviate surface soil compaction;
- improve water infiltration and soil aeration;
- support root development and grass growth; and
- improve the productivity and resilience of grassland.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Grassland sward lifter**, where deeper alleviation of soil compaction is required.
- **Grassland overseeder and rejuvenator**, to improve the condition and productivity of an existing grass sward.

Return to contents page

Grassland sward lifter

About this investment

Provides deep soil loosening beneath established grassland to alleviate soil compaction while minimising disturbance to the existing sward. This helps improve soil structure, root development, water infiltration and long-term grassland productivity.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 3.7

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £10,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a grassland sward lifter designed for agricultural use.

The grassland sward lifter must:

- have a minimum of **three lifting legs**;
- have adjustable working depth to at least **300 mm**;
- have a cutting disc in front of each lifting leg capable of cutting to a minimum depth of **50 mm**;
- have a packing roller behind each lifting leg; and
- have shear-bolt or mechanical reset protection on each lifting leg.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for alleviating soil compaction beneath established grassland.**

Not eligible

- General subsoilers, cultivators and equipment primarily designed for arable cultivation are not eligible under this item.
- Replacement discs, legs, rollers or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The grassland sward lifter must be designed specifically for use on established grassland while minimising surface disturbance.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the equipment serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- alleviate deeper soil compaction beneath established grassland;
- improve soil structure, drainage and water infiltration;

- encourage deeper root development and healthier grass growth;
- improve the productivity and resilience of grassland; and
- support more efficient use of nutrients and water.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Grassland aerator**, where surface compaction is the primary issue.
- **Grassland overseeder and rejuvenator**, to improve sward condition following soil improvement where appropriate.

Return to contents page

Grassland overseeder and rejuvenator

About this investment

Provides low-disturbance overseeding and sward rejuvenation to improve the condition, productivity and resilience of existing grassland. This helps farmers and crofters maintain productive grassland, improve forage production and extend the productive life of existing swards.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 3.5

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £20,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a grassland overseeder and rejuvenator designed to improve existing grassland with minimal disturbance to the existing sward.

The equipment must:

- incorporate harrows, tines or other mechanisms to prepare or open the existing sward for overseeding;
- include a seed hopper with a metering and distribution system suitable for overseeding existing grassland;
- be capable of distributing seed across or into the existing sward;
- incorporate a roller or other mechanism to reconsolidate the sward following seed application; and
- perform sward preparation, seed application and consolidation as part of a complete grassland rejuvenation system.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for overseeding and rejuvenating existing grassland.**

Not eligible

- Standalone grass harrows, rollers or seeders are not eligible.
- Conventional plough-based reseeding equipment, cultivators and equipment intended primarily for establishing new grassland are not eligible.
- Grass seed is not eligible under this item.
- Replacement tines, harrows, rollers, coulters or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The equipment must be designed specifically for overseeding and rejuvenating existing grassland.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the equipment serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve sward density and persistence;
- increase grassland productivity and forage production;
- improve the resilience and longevity of existing grassland;
- reduce weed ingress by maintaining healthy swards; and
- support more productive pasture-based livestock systems.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Grassland aerator**, where surface soil compaction is limiting grass growth.
- **Grassland sward lifter**, where deeper soil compaction requires remediation before sward improvement.

Return to contents page

Weed wiper

About this investment

Supports precision weed management through the targeted application of herbicide to weeds growing above the crop or grass sward. This helps reduce overall herbicide use, minimise environmental impacts and support integrated weed management.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 3.0

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £4,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise of a **trailed weed wiper**.

The weed wiper must:

- have a minimum working width of **2.4 metres**;
- include height adjustment to target weeds growing above the crop or grass sward;
- have a minimum **60 litre tank**;
- include at least one rotating application roller made of carpet, brush or absorbent pad;
- include an electric pump and pump control to regulate herbicide application; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Broadcast spraying equipment is not eligible under this item.
- Hand-held, tractor-mounted and ATV/UTV-mounted weed wiping equipment is not eligible.
- Weed wiping attachments without an electric pump and controlled herbicide application are not eligible.
- Herbicides and other consumables are not eligible.
- Replacement rollers, pads, pumps or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the machine serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce herbicide use through targeted weed treatment;
- improve the control of problem weeds;
- reduce input costs;
- minimise environmental impacts;
- support integrated weed management; and
- improve grassland and crop management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Spot spraying system**, for camera-guided treatment of individual weeds.
- **Camera-guided inter-row sprayer**, for targeted weed control between crop rows.

- **Tractor-mounted or trailed bracken roller**, where mechanical vegetation control is more appropriate than herbicide application.

Return to contents page

Environmental Land Management and Protection

Category overview

Investments in this category support the protection, creation, restoration and enhancement of Scotland's natural environment while helping farmers and crofters manage land sustainably.

They are intended to improve water quality, protect and enhance biodiversity, create and restore habitats, reduce diffuse pollution and strengthen the resilience of agricultural land to climate change.

All eligible capital investments within this category attract an intervention rate of 100%. Where a Standard Cost applies, grant is calculated using the published Standard Cost and the eligible quantity, length or area applied for. Where a Maximum Cost applies, grant is based on the lower of the applicant's actual cost or the published Maximum Cost.

The investments within this category contribute primarily towards the Future Farming Investment Scheme objective of protecting and enhancing the environment, while also supporting climate change mitigation, climate adaptation and the long-term sustainability of agricultural businesses.

Return to contents page

Native hedge planting and hedge gapping up

About this investment

Supports the establishment of new native hedgerows and the restoration of existing native hedgerows through hedge gapping up. This helps improve biodiversity,

strengthen habitat connectivity, provide shelter for livestock and wildlife, and enhance the farmed landscape.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 4.0

Standard Cost - £5.40 per linear metre

Enter the item cost in your application as the Standard Cost shown above multiplied by the number of metres you are applying for.

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise native hedge plants and suitable hedge plant guards for the establishment of new native hedgerows or hedge gapping up.

Planting must:

- use a double staggered planting arrangement;
- achieve a minimum planting density of **6 plants per linear metre** (3 plants per row);
- use predominantly native hedge species appropriate to the locality; and
- include suitable guards to protect newly planted hedge plants.

Not eligible

- Labour costs associated with hedge planting are not eligible.

Important information

- Grant is calculated at the Standard Cost of **£5.40 per linear metre**.
- A minimum of **50 linear metres** and a maximum of **500 linear metres** can be applied for.
- For hedge gapping up, separate gaps within the same existing hedgerow may be combined to meet the minimum eligible length.
- Where hedge planting or hedge gapping up is undertaken along a shared boundary and the adjoining landowner is also contributing to the cost, only the applicant's proportion of the hedge length is eligible for support.
- Geo-tagged photographs of the planting area before work starts and after completion must be provided as evidence of investment.
- Where hedge planting or hedge gapping up is undertaken along a shared boundary, the applicant must have the agreement of the adjoining landowner where this is required. The applicant must have responsibility for establishing and maintaining the funded hedge. The same hedge must not receive funding through another FFIS application or another public funding scheme.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve biodiversity and habitat connectivity;
- provide habitat and food sources for wildlife and pollinators;
- strengthen ecological networks across agricultural land;
- provide shelter for livestock and wildlife; and
- enhance the resilience and appearance of the farmed landscape.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Protective stock fencing for habitat establishment**, where fencing is required to protect newly established hedgerows from livestock.
- **Riparian fencing and livestock exclusion system**, where hedgerows are being established alongside watercourses to improve habitat connectivity and protect water quality.

Return to contents page

Native tree planting for agroforestry

About this investment

Supports the planting of native UK provenance trees integrated within agricultural land to establish or enhance agroforestry systems. This helps improve biodiversity, increase carbon sequestration, provide shelter for livestock and strengthen the long-term resilience of agricultural businesses.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 4.3

Standard Cost - £3.00 per tree

Enter the item cost in your application as the Standard Cost shown above multiplied by the number of trees you are applying for.

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise native UK provenance trees for planting within an agricultural agroforestry system.

Planting must:

- use native UK provenance tree species appropriate to the locality;
- be integrated within agricultural land as part of an agroforestry system;
- provide appropriate protection for all newly planted trees from wild and domestic herbivores; and
- not exceed a maximum planting density of **275 trees per 0.25 hectares**.

Not eligible

- Labour costs associated with tree planting are not eligible.

Important information

- Grant is calculated using the number of eligible trees applied for and the published Standard Cost.
- A minimum of 50 trees and a maximum of 1,100 trees can be applied for.
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that land used for agroforestry planting continues to meet the eligibility requirements of any other agricultural support schemes they claim.
- Tree planting may require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening or other statutory approvals. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain any necessary approvals before planting.
- Tree planting should avoid sensitive habitats where planting could adversely affect biodiversity.
- Where additional protection from livestock or wild herbivores is required, this should be provided through an appropriate eligible tree protection or fencing investment.
- Geo-tagged photographs of the planting area before work starts and after completion must be provided as evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- establish or enhance agroforestry systems;
- improve biodiversity and habitat connectivity;
- increase carbon sequestration;
- provide shelter for livestock and wildlife;
- improve the resilience of agricultural businesses; and
- enhance the farmed landscape.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Individual tree protection**, where additional protection from livestock or wild herbivores is required.
- **Protective stock fencing for habitat establishment**, where fencing is required to protect newly planted trees from livestock.
- **Native hedge planting and hedge gapping up**, to strengthen habitat connectivity across the farm or croft.

Return to contents page

Individual tree protection

About this investment

Supports the protection of newly planted trees using individual tree shelters. This helps improve tree establishment by reducing damage from wild herbivores and increasing the long-term success of tree planting within agricultural systems.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 2.3

Standard Cost - £2.00 per tree

Enter the item cost in your application as the Standard Cost shown above multiplied by the number of tree guards you are applying for.

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an individual tree protection system including:

- a tree shelter between **1.2 and 1.8 metres** in height;
- a suitable support stake; and
- all fixings necessary to securely install the tree shelter.

The individual tree protection system must be **new, fit for purpose and suitable for protecting newly planted trees from wild herbivores.**

Not eligible

- Labour costs associated with installing individual tree protection are not eligible.

Important information

- Individual tree protection is only eligible where applied for in conjunction with **Native tree planting for agroforestry**.
- The number of individual tree protection systems applied for must not exceed the number of trees applied for.
- A minimum of **50** and a maximum of **1,100** individual tree protection systems can be applied for.
- Grant is calculated using the number of eligible tree protection systems applied for and the published Standard Cost.
- Tree shelters are not a substitute for appropriate stock fencing where protection from livestock is required.
- Geo-tagged photographs showing completed installation must be provided as evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the successful establishment of newly planted trees;

- reduce damage caused by wild herbivores;
- increase tree survival rates; and
- protect environmental investment and support the successful establishment of agroforestry systems.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Native tree planting for agroforestry**, with which this investment must be applied for.
- **Protective stock fencing for habitat establishment**, where newly planted trees require protection from livestock.

Return to contents page

Pond creation for wildlife

About this investment

Supports the creation of wildlife ponds within agricultural land to provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. This helps improve biodiversity, strengthen habitat resilience and enhance the environmental value of the farmed landscape.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 3.9

Standard Cost - £4.50 per square metre

Enter the item cost in your application as the Standard Cost shown above multiplied by the number of square metres you are applying for.

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise the creation of a new wildlife pond.

The pond must:

- be created specifically for wildlife habitat;
- have an eligible surface area of between **50 and 600 square metres**;
- retain water during winter and spring, or for longer where conditions allow; and
- be allowed to regenerate naturally without artificial planting.

Important information

- Grant is calculated using the eligible surface area of the pond and the published Standard Cost.
- A minimum of **50 square metres** and a maximum of **600 square metres** can be applied for.

- Wildlife ponds must not be used for water abstraction or livestock drinking water.
- Ponds must not be stocked with fish.
- To help prevent the spread of invasive non-native plant species, ponds must not be artificially planted and should be allowed to regenerate naturally.
- Where the proposed pond is located on a designated site or is connected to a river, stream, ditch, wetland, estuary or loch, statutory approvals may be required before work begins. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain any necessary approvals.
- Geo-tagged photographs of the area before work starts and after completion must be provided as evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- create valuable habitat for amphibians, birds, invertebrates and other wildlife;
- improve biodiversity and habitat connectivity;
- strengthen the resilience of agricultural landscapes;
- contribute to natural water retention;
- support climate change adaptation through improved habitat diversity; and
- enhance the environmental value of agricultural land.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Native hedge planting and hedge gapping up**, to improve habitat connectivity.
- **Native tree planting for agroforestry**, to provide additional habitat and shelter.
- **Riparian fencing and livestock exclusion system**, where livestock exclusion is required to protect newly created aquatic habitats.

Return to contents page

Protective stock fencing for tree establishment

Protective stock fencing for hedge establishment

Protective stock fencing for pond creation

About this investment

This investment is only available where applied for in conjunction Native tree planting for agroforestry, hedge planting or pond creation.

Supports the installation of protective stock fencing to protect newly established environmental habitats from livestock damage.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 2.3

Standard Cost - £5.50 per linear metre

Enter the item cost in your application as the Standard Cost shown above multiplied by the number of metres you are applying for.

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise protective stock fencing for habitat establishment.

The fencing must:

- comprise a minimum of six line wires; or
- comprise a minimum of two line wires with woven wire netting; and
- be new, fit for purpose and suitable for protecting newly established hedgerows, agroforestry planting or pond from livestock.

Not eligible

- Standalone field boundary fencing and replacement fencing are not eligible.
- Labour costs associated with erecting protective stock fencing are not eligible.

Important information

- Grant is calculated using the number of eligible linear metres applied for and the published Standard Cost.
- A minimum of **50 linear metres** and a maximum of **1,000 linear metres** can be applied for.
- The length of fencing applied for must be reasonable and necessary to protect the hedge planting, hedge gapping up or tree planting supported under **those options**.
- The length of fencing applied for must be reasonable and necessary to protect the associated hedge or agroforestry planting.
- Where fencing is required on both sides of a newly planted hedge, **both fence lines are eligible**.
- Standard fencing posts must be spaced no more than **3.5 metres** apart.
- High-tensile fencing posts may be spaced up to **12 metres** apart.
- Where protective fencing is installed alongside newly planted hedgerows, the fence must be positioned at least **1 metre from the centre line of the hedge**.
- Geo-tagged photographs of the fencing location before work starts and after completion must be provided as evidence of investment.
- Where protective stock fencing is installed along a shared boundary, the applicant must have the agreement of the adjoining landowner where this is required. The applicant must have responsibility for establishing and maintaining the funded fencing. The same fencing must not receive funding through another FFIS application or another public funding scheme.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- protect newly established hedgerows, agroforestry planting and ponds from livestock damage;
- improve the successful establishment of environmental habitats;
- reduce the need for replacement planting; and
- protect public investment in environmental improvements.

Associated capital investments

This investment may only be applied for with one or both of the following:

- **Native hedge planting and hedge gapping up**
- **Native tree planting for agroforestry**
- **Pond creation for wildlife**

Return to contents page

Riparian fencing

About this investment

Supports the installation of protective fencing to permanently exclude livestock from direct access to watercourses. This helps improve water quality, protect riverbanks and riparian habitats, reduce diffuse pollution and enhance biodiversity.

Where livestock no longer have direct access to a watercourse for drinking, applicants should ensure an alternative livestock drinking water supply is available.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 4.2

Standard Cost - £5.50 per linear metre
Enter the item cost in your application as the Standard Cost shown above multiplied by the number of metres you are applying for.

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise protective stock fencing designed to permanently exclude livestock from direct access to a watercourse.

The fencing must:

- comprise a minimum of six line wires; or
- comprise a minimum of two line wires with woven wire netting;
- provide effective livestock exclusion along the protected watercourse; and

- be new, fit for purpose and suitable for protecting riparian habitats from livestock.

Not eligible

- Labour costs associated with erecting riparian fencing are not eligible.
- Gaps, access points or unfenced sections intended to allow routine livestock access for drinking or grazing are not eligible.
- Standalone field boundary fencing and replacement fencing are not eligible.

Important information

- Grant is calculated using the number of eligible linear metres applied for and the published Standard Cost.
- Fencing may be installed on one or both sides of a watercourse where this is necessary to prevent livestock access.
- A minimum of **50 metres** and a maximum of **1,000 metres** of riparian fencing can be applied for. Where fencing is installed on both sides of a watercourse, the 1,000 metre maximum applies to the total combined length of eligible fencing.
- The fence must be positioned at least **5 metres from the top of the watercourse bank**.
- Standard fencing posts must be spaced no more than **3.5 metres** apart.
- High-tensile fencing posts may be spaced up to **12 metres** apart.
- Geo-tagged photographs of the area before work starts and after completion must be provided as evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve water quality;
- protect riverbanks from livestock damage and erosion;
- reduce diffuse agricultural pollution;
- improve riparian habitats and biodiversity;
- enhance the ecological resilience of watercourses; and
- contribute to climate change adaptation through healthier freshwater ecosystems.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Water bowser with integrated livestock drinking trough**, where a mobile drinking water supply is required.
- **Pasture pump**, where an alternative livestock drinking point can be supplied from a suitable nearby water source.
- **Solar-powered livestock water pump**, where a solar-powered drinking water supply is required from a suitable water source.

Return to contents page

Mechanical bracken roller

About this investment

Supports the mechanical management of bracken through bruising and crushing to reduce bracken dominance and encourage the recovery of grassland and other valuable habitats. This helps improve biodiversity while reducing reliance on chemical control methods.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 3.4

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £2,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a mechanical bracken roller designed for agricultural or habitat management use.

The bracken roller must:

- have a minimum working width of **1.5 metres**;
- have a roller or cylinder with an uneven, ridged or profiled surface designed to bruise and crush bracken stems;
- be capable of being towed by an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or tractor; and
- be new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for mechanical bracken management.

Not eligible

- Self-propelled equipment and general-purpose land rollers are not eligible.
- Labour costs associated with operating the equipment are not eligible.
- Replacement rollers or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The bracken roller must be designed specifically for mechanical bracken control.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the equipment serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce bracken dominance without the routine use of herbicides;
- encourage the recovery of grassland and native vegetation;
- improve biodiversity and habitat condition;
- support sustainable land management; and
- improve the environmental value of agricultural land.

Return to contents page

Pedestrian-operated bracken roller

About this investment

Supports the mechanical management of bracken through bruising and crushing to reduce bracken dominance and encourage the recovery of grassland and other valuable habitats. This helps improve biodiversity while reducing reliance on chemical control methods, particularly in smaller or inaccessible areas.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 3.4

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £3,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a pedestrian-operated mechanical bracken roller designed for agricultural or habitat management use.

The bracken roller must:

- have a ridged, uneven or profiled roller designed to bruise and crush bracken stems; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for mechanical bracken management.**

Not eligible

- General land rollers and chemical application equipment are not eligible under this item.
- Labour costs associated with operating the equipment are not eligible.
- Replacement rollers or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The bracken roller must be designed specifically for mechanical bracken control.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application.**
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help to:

- reduce bracken dominance without the routine use of herbicides;
- encourage the recovery of grassland and native vegetation;
- improve biodiversity and habitat condition;
- support sustainable land management; and
- improve the environmental value of agricultural land.

Return to contents page

Soil Health and Reduced Cultivation

Category overview

Investments in this category support improved soil management, reduced cultivation and regenerative farming practices.

They are intended to help farmers minimise soil disturbance, improve soil structure and water infiltration, protect soil from erosion, support sustainable crop establishment and cover cropping, and reduce reliance on herbicides through mechanical weed control and cover crop termination.

The standard intervention rate applicable to investments within this category is **50% of eligible costs**.

Enhanced intervention rates of **60%** may be available to eligible Highlands and Islands businesses and **80%** to eligible new entrant businesses, subject to scheme eligibility requirements and the published **Maximum Cost** for each investment.

The investments within this category contribute towards one or more of the Future Farming Investment Scheme objectives by improving business efficiency and sustainability, protecting and enhancing the environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting resilience to climate change.

Return to contents page

Direct drill

About this investment

Supports the establishment of arable and cover crops by placing seed directly into undisturbed soil with minimal soil disturbance. This helps improve soil health, protect soil structure, reduce cultivation intensity and support regenerative farming practices.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £40,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a direct drill designed for precision drilling into undisturbed soil.

The direct drill must:

- have a minimum drilling width of **2.9 metres**;
- use tines or discs to produce the seeding slot;
- place seed directly into the seeding slot;
- have a seed hopper with a minimum capacity of **1,000 litres**;
- incorporate precision seed metering capable of drilling between **1 kg and 300 kg of seed per hectare**;
- be capable of drilling the full range of arable and cover crops, including cereals, pulses and oilseeds, into undisturbed soil; and
- be capable of drilling through an established growing cover crop of at least **15 cm** in height.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for direct drilling.**

Not eligible

- Drills that cultivate or prepare the seedbed ahead of the seeding element are not eligible.
- Cultivators with overseeders or broadcasters are not eligible.
- Minimum tillage drills and strip till drills are not eligible.
- Grassland drills, grass overseeders, broadcasters and other equipment intended primarily for grass seeding are not eligible.
- Where the drill includes a component for pesticide application, including slug pellet application, the cost of that component is not eligible.
- Replacement discs, tines, coulters and other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- Where a direct drill includes a fertiliser placement system, the fertiliser must be placed **below or to the side of the seed within the seeding slot**, and the system must have a minimum fertiliser hopper capacity of **600 litres**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the machine serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce soil disturbance during crop establishment;
- improve soil structure and soil health;
- reduce the risk of soil erosion;
- improve water infiltration and moisture retention;
- reduce fuel use and cultivation costs; and
- support regenerative and conservation agriculture.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Tractor-mounted stubble rake**, to manage crop residues and improve seed placement where appropriate.
- **Cover crop air seeder**, to establish cover crops and protect bare soil between cash crops.
- **Cover crop roller**, to mechanically terminate cover crops before direct drilling, reducing reliance on herbicides.

Return to contents page

Strip till drill

About this investment

Supports the establishment of arable crops by cultivating narrow strips of soil for seed placement while leaving the soil between the cultivated strips substantially undisturbed. This helps reduce cultivation intensity, protect soil structure and support regenerative farming practices.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.5

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £40,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a strip till drill designed for precision crop establishment with reduced soil disturbance.

The strip till drill must:

- have a minimum working width of **3 metres**;
- use discs, tines, coulters or other suitable mechanisms to cultivate and prepare narrow strips of soil for seed placement;
- leave the soil between the cultivated strips substantially undisturbed;
- incorporate a precision seed metering and placement system;
- place seed accurately within the prepared strip;
- incorporate a mechanism to close or consolidate the soil around the seed following placement; and
- be capable of establishing arable crops using a strip-tillage system.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for strip-till crop establishment.**

Not eligible

- Equipment that cultivates or prepares the full working width of the soil is not eligible.
- Direct drills and minimum tillage drills are not eligible under this item.
- Conventional cultivation and plough-based crop establishment equipment is not eligible.
- Grassland drills, overseeders and grassland rejuvenation equipment are not eligible.
- Replacement discs, tines, coulters and other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- Where the drill incorporates a fertiliser placement system, the fertiliser placement equipment may form part of the eligible capital investment.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the machine serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce soil disturbance during crop establishment;
- protect and improve soil structure and soil health;
- reduce fuel use and cultivation requirements;
- improve water infiltration and moisture retention;
- reduce the risk of soil erosion; and
- support regenerative and reduced-tillage farming practices.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Tractor-mounted stubble rake**, to manage crop residues before strip-till establishment.
- **Cover crop air seeder**, to establish cover crops within a reduced-cultivation system.
- **Cover crop roller**, to mechanically terminate cover crops before strip-till establishment.

Return to contents page

Minimum tillage cultivator

About this investment

Supports one-pass reduced-disturbance cultivation by preparing seedbeds with minimal soil inversion. This helps improve soil structure, reduce cultivation intensity, conserve soil moisture and support more sustainable crop establishment.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 3.9

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £25,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a multi-component, one-pass reduced or minimum tillage cultivation machine.

The cultivator must:

- have a minimum working width of **3 metres**;
- have a minimum of **three rows of soil-engaging components**;
- have two separate rows comprising fixed tines, discs, loosening legs, spring tines or a combination of these; and
- have a third rear row comprising a packer, crumbler, roller, rings or shouldered rings.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for reduced or minimum tillage cultivation.**

Not eligible

- Rotavators and power harrows are not eligible.
- Conventional mouldboard ploughs are not eligible.
- Direct drills and strip till drills are not eligible under this item.
- Replacement tines, discs, packers, rollers and other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the machine serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce cultivation intensity and soil disturbance;
- improve soil structure and resilience;
- reduce the risk of soil erosion;
- improve water infiltration and moisture retention;
- reduce fuel use and operating costs; and
- support sustainable crop establishment and reduced-cultivation systems.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Tractor-mounted stubble rake**, to manage crop residues within a reduced-cultivation system.
- **Cover crop air seeder**, to establish cover crops and protect bare soil between cash crops.
- **Cover crop roller**, to mechanically terminate cover crops within a reduced-cultivation system.

Return to contents page

Precision camera-guided inter-row hoe

About this investment

Supports precision mechanical weed control between crop rows using camera-guided hoeing technology. This helps reduce reliance on herbicides, support integrated weed management and encourage more sustainable crop production.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed, Horticulture.

Item Score – 4.2

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £40,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a precision camera-guided inter-row hoe designed for mechanical weed control between crop rows.

The system must:

- have a minimum working width of **3 metres**;
- use camera recognition to automatically distinguish between the crop row and weeds between crop rows;
- automatically detect the position of the crop rows;
- automatically adjust the position of the hoeing elements to mechanically remove weeds **between the crop rows** while minimising damage to the crop; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Equipment without automatic camera-guided crop-row detection and adjustment is not eligible.
- Equipment designed primarily for conventional cultivation is not eligible.
- This item is for **inter-row weed control**. Equipment designed solely for manual or non-camera-guided mechanical weed control is not eligible.
- Replacement hoes, blades, tines and other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The equipment must use camera recognition to automatically guide the inter-row hoeing operation.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the machine serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce reliance on herbicides;
- support integrated weed management;
- reduce pesticide use;
- provide targeted mechanical control of weeds between crop rows;
- reduce crop damage through precision guidance; and
- support more sustainable crop production.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Minimum tillage cultivator**, as part of a reduced-cultivation crop establishment system.

Return to contents page

Subsoiler

About this investment

Supports the targeted alleviation of soil compaction within cultivated land without full soil inversion. This helps improve soil structure, increase water infiltration, encourage deeper root development and support more sustainable crop production.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 3.4

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £10,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a subsoiler designed to alleviate soil compaction with minimal soil disturbance.

The subsoiler must:

- have a minimum working width of **2.7 metres**;
- comprise a minimum of **three soil-engaging legs**;
- provide adjustable working depth;
- incorporate individual leg protection through mechanical reset, auto-reset or shear-bolt protection; and
- be designed for the targeted alleviation of subsurface soil compaction without full soil inversion.

The eligible capital investment must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item suitable for alleviating soil compaction.**

Not eligible

- Grassland aerators and grassland sward lifters are not eligible under this item.
- General cultivation equipment and machinery primarily intended for seedbed preparation, soil mixing or soil inversion rather than the targeted alleviation of subsurface soil compaction is not eligible.
- Replacement legs, points, discs, rollers and other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The machine must be identified by the manufacturer as a subsoiler, low-disturbance subsoiler, soil loosener or equivalent implement intended primarily for the alleviation of soil compaction.
- This item is intended for the targeted alleviation of soil compaction within cultivated land.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the machine serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- alleviate soil compaction;
- improve soil structure and resilience;
- improve water infiltration and drainage;
- reduce surface water run-off and the risk of soil erosion;
- encourage deeper root development;
- improve crop resilience and productivity; and
- support sustainable soil management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Direct drill**, where reduced cultivation is being adopted.
- **Strip till drill**, where targeted cultivation forms part of the crop establishment system.
- **Minimum tillage cultivator**, as part of a wider reduced-cultivation approach.

Return to contents page

Tractor-mounted stubble rake

About this investment

Supports shallow post-harvest cultivation to distribute crop residues, encourage the establishment of stale seedbeds and support reduced-cultivation crop establishment systems. This helps reduce cultivation intensity and support more sustainable soil and crop management.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 3.9

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £18,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a tractor-mounted stubble rake designed for shallow surface cultivation and crop residue management.

The stubble rake must:

- have a minimum working width of **6 metres**;
- have only rearward-facing straight tines without hooks or curves, designed to lightly agitate the soil surface and distribute crop residues evenly across the field;
- be capable of breaking up damp mats of straw; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Stubble rakes incorporating any type or form of discs, packing rollers or crumbler rollers are not eligible.
- Conventional cultivators and other equipment designed for primary cultivation are not eligible.
- Replacement tines and other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the machine serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the distribution of crop residues following harvest;
- encourage the establishment of stale seedbeds to support weed management;
- support reduced-cultivation crop establishment systems;
- reduce the need for more intensive cultivation;
- reduce fuel use associated with cultivation; and
- support more sustainable soil management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Direct drill**, to establish crops with minimal soil disturbance.
- **Strip till drill**, where targeted cultivation forms part of the crop establishment system.
- **Cover crop air seeder**, to establish cover crops following harvest.
- **Cover crop roller**, to mechanically terminate cover crops before subsequent crop establishment.

Return to contents page

Cover crop air seeder

About this investment

Supports the establishment of cover crops, companion crops and under-sown crops using a pneumatic air seeding system mounted on existing drilling or soil tillage equipment. This helps protect bare soil, reduce erosion, improve soil condition and support regenerative farming practices.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.0

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £6,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a pneumatic air seeding system designed for establishing cover crops, companion crops and under-sown crops.

The system must:

- be designed to be mounted on existing drills or soil tillage equipment;
- have a minimum drilling width of **3 metres**;
- incorporate electronic seed metering;
- have a minimum seed hopper capacity of **240 litres**;

- be capable of drilling small cover crop seeds, such as clover, mustard and phacelia;
- use pipes, coulters or spreader plates to place the seed; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Standalone conventional drills and complete replacement drilling equipment are not eligible under this item.
- Equipment designed primarily for fertiliser application is not eligible.
- Seed is not eligible under this item.
- Replacement metering units, pipes, coulters, spreader plates and other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The equipment must be installed and operational before evidence of investment is submitted.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the machine serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- establish cover crops, companion crops and under-sown crops efficiently;
- protect bare soil and reduce the risk of soil erosion;
- improve soil condition and soil structure;
- support improvements in soil organic matter and biological activity;
- support reduced-cultivation systems; and
- improve the long-term resilience of cultivated soils.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Tractor-mounted stubble rake**, to manage crop residues following harvest.
- **Cover crop roller**, to mechanically terminate cover crops before establishing the following crop.
- **Direct drill**, to establish subsequent crops with minimal soil disturbance.

Return to contents page

Cover crop roller/crimper

About this investment

Supports the mechanical termination of cover crops through bruising and crimping before direct drilling. This helps reduce reliance on herbicides while maintaining soil cover and supporting reduced cultivation and regenerative farming practices.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.1

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £8,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a cover crop roller/crimper designed for the mechanical termination of cover crops.

The cover crop roller/crimper must:

- have a minimum working width of **3 metres**;
- be designed to terminate or bruise cover crops before direct drilling;
- have an uneven, ridged or crimping surface across the full working width of the roller; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Flat grassland rollers are not eligible.
- Rollers comprising a series of rings are not eligible.
- Rollers incorporating cultivation equipment are not eligible.
- Replacement rollers, blades or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the machine serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce reliance on herbicides for cover crop termination;
- maintain soil cover and protect soil structure;
- reduce soil disturbance;

- support soil moisture retention;
- support direct drilling and reduced-cultivation systems; and
- support regenerative farming practices.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Cover crop air seeder**, to establish cover crops for subsequent mechanical termination.
- **Direct drill**, to establish the following crop with minimal soil disturbance.

Return to contents page

Precision Farming Crop and Grassland Management

Category overview

Investments within this category support the adoption of precision farming technologies and improved crop and grassland management. Eligible capital investments are intended to improve the accuracy and efficiency of agricultural operations, optimise the use of fertilisers and plant protection products, improve crop and soil management, reduce input use and environmental impacts, and support more productive and sustainable farming businesses.

The standard intervention rate applicable to investments within this category is **50% of eligible costs**.

Enhanced intervention rates of up to **60%** may be available to eligible Highlands and Islands businesses and up to **80%** may be available to eligible new entrant businesses, subject to scheme eligibility conditions and the published **Maximum Cost** for each investment.

Return to contents page

GPS field guidance system

About this investment

Supports more accurate field operations through GPS-based visual guidance. This can help reduce overlaps and misses, improve operational efficiency and reduce unnecessary use of fuel and agricultural inputs.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 3.1

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £1,750

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **standalone GPS field guidance system**.

The system must:

- provide GPS-based visual guidance for agricultural field operations;
- automatically measure and recognise field boundaries;
- create, load and store field information;
- provide both straight and curved guidance modes;
- enable field information to be transferred to a computer or compatible mobile device; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- The system must be purchased as a standalone item and must not form part of the purchase of a new tractor, self-propelled machine or other agricultural equipment.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- Smartphones, tablets and general-purpose computers are not eligible.
- Assisted or automatic steering equipment is not eligible under this item.
- Software or navigation applications purchased without eligible GPS/GNSS equipment are not eligible.
- Ongoing subscriptions, connectivity charges and software licence fees are not eligible.

Important information

- Where a compatible smartphone or tablet is used as the display, dedicated GPS/GNSS equipment must form part of the eligible investment.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the accuracy of field operations;
- reduce overlaps and misses;
- reduce unnecessary fuel use;
- support more efficient use of seed, fertiliser and plant protection products;
- improve operational efficiency; and
- support the adoption of precision farming practices.

Return to contents page

Retrofit GPS assisted steering system

About this investment

Supports more accurate field operations by adding GPS-assisted steering to an existing tractor or self-propelled agricultural machine. The system automatically controls steering during field operations, helping reduce overlaps and misses, improve operational efficiency and reduce operator fatigue.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 3.5

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £8,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **GPS-assisted steering system for retrofit to an existing tractor or self-propelled agricultural machine**.

The system must:

- include an electric hands-free assisted steering device fitted to the existing steering wheel or replacing the steering wheel;
- include or connect to a compatible GPS/GNSS guidance system;
- automatically control steering during field operations; and
- be new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system.

Not eligible

- Software activations, enablement codes or licences that only unlock automatic steering functionality already installed on a tractor or machine are not eligible.
- Standalone GPS/GNSS receivers, displays or other guidance equipment are not eligible unless they are required components of the eligible retrofit assisted-steering system.

- Factory-installed or integrated automatic steering systems supplied as part of a new tractor or self-propelled agricultural machine are not eligible.
- Ongoing subscriptions, licence fees, connectivity charges and software support costs are not eligible.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where necessary to install the eligible system and where they form part of the supplier's purchase and installation price. General electrical upgrades, modifications to the agricultural machine that are not integral to installation of the eligible system, and other unrelated costs are not eligible.

Important information

- The item is intended to retrofit GPS-assisted steering to an existing tractor or self-propelled agricultural machine.
- **Where a GPS/GNSS receiver and/or display is required for the eligible assisted-steering system to operate, these may be included as part of the complete system.**
- **Where compatible GPS/GNSS guidance equipment is already available, it does not need to be replaced.**
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicant's own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the accuracy of field operations;
- reduce overlaps and misses;
- reduce unnecessary fuel and agricultural input use;
- improve operational efficiency;
- reduce operator fatigue; and
- support precision farming.

Return to contents page

Variable rate and section controller

About this investment

Supports precision farming by adding variable rate and section control to existing application equipment. The system automatically adjusts application rates and controls individual sections of the implement, helping improve input efficiency, reduce overlaps and minimise unnecessary application.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.5

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £5,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **variable rate and section control system retrofitted to an existing seed drill, sprayer or fertiliser spreader**.

The system must:

- provide both **variable rate application and section control**;
- include the equipment required to retrofit section control to the existing seed drill, sprayer or fertiliser spreader;
- electronically vary and control the application rate of seed, fertiliser or plant protection products;
- automatically adjust the application rate without operator input;
- automatically control individual sections of the implement;
- record application rates and enable application data to be transferred to an existing mobile phone, tablet or computer;
- include either an **in-cab display or ISOBUS connection**; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- The purchase of a new seed drill, sprayer or fertiliser spreader is not eligible under this item.
- Software or activation codes for existing control systems are not eligible.
- Standalone in-cab displays or ISOBUS terminals without the associated retrofit variable rate and section control equipment are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets and computers are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.

Important information

- The eligible system must be retrofitted to an **existing seed drill, sprayer or fertiliser spreader**.
- The system must be installed and operational before evidence of investment is submitted.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.

- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the accuracy of seed, fertiliser and plant protection product application;
- reduce overlaps and over-application;
- improve input use efficiency;
- reduce input costs;
- support more targeted application according to crop and soil requirements; and
- reduce environmental impacts associated with agricultural inputs.

Return to contents page

Automatic spray boom height control

About this investment

Supports more accurate and efficient spraying by automatically maintaining the spray boom at the appropriate height as ground contours change. This can improve spray application, reduce spray drift and improve the effectiveness of plant protection products.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.0

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £11,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an **automatic spray boom height control system retrofitted to an existing sprayer**.

The system must:

- include sensors capable of measuring boom height from the ground or crop;
- include a controller that automatically adjusts boom height in response to changes in ground or crop contours;

- include stability control capable of monitoring and compensating for boom section roll;
- have **ISOBUS connectivity**;
- be capable of being retrofitted to an existing sprayer; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- The purchase of a new sprayer is not eligible under this item.
- Standalone sensors, controllers or individual components are not eligible unless purchased as part of a complete automatic spray boom height control system.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- Systems that only provide the operator with a boom-height warning or display and do not automatically adjust the boom are not eligible.
- Software or activation codes for existing systems are not eligible when purchased on their own.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.

Important information

- The eligible system must be retrofitted to an **existing sprayer**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- maintain a more consistent spray boom height;
- improve spray application accuracy;
- reduce the risk of spray drift;
- improve spray coverage;
- reduce unnecessary plant protection product use;
- improve operational efficiency; and
- support more precise crop protection.

Return to contents page

Spot spraying system

About this investment

Supports more targeted application of plant protection products using camera-guided technology to identify weeds and automatically control individual spray nozzles. This can reduce pesticide use and input costs by treating weeds only where required.

Suitable farm types – Arable, Livestock, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.6

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £40,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a camera-guided spot spraying system capable of automatically identifying and selectively targeting individual weeds. The system may be retrofitted to an existing compatible sprayer or supplied as a complete purpose-built spot sprayer. **Conventional broadcast sprayers are not eligible.**

The system must:

- use cameras and automated weed recognition to identify individual target weeds in a crop or grassland;
- use real-time image recognition to distinguish target weeds from the surrounding crop or grassland;
- automatically activate individual spray nozzles to selectively treat identified weeds;
- include the cameras, computer hardware, software and control equipment necessary to operate the spot spraying system; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the supplier's purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- **Conventional broadcast sprayers are not eligible**.
- The cost of converting an existing sprayer to individual nozzle control is not eligible.
- Systems that do not automatically identify and selectively target individual weeds are not eligible. Section control or individual nozzle control alone does not meet the minimum specification.

- Standalone cameras, sensors, computers or software without the associated camera-guided spot spraying equipment are not eligible.
- Software or activation codes for existing systems are not eligible when purchased on their own.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.

Important information

- The system may be retrofitted to an existing compatible sprayer or supplied as a complete purpose-built spot sprayer.
- Where the system is retrofitted, the existing sprayer must have compatible individual nozzle control necessary for the system to operate.
- A purpose-built spot sprayer must be specifically designed to automatically identify and selectively treat individual weeds. A conventional broadcast sprayer fitted with section control or individual nozzle control alone is not considered a purpose-built spot sprayer under this item.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicant's own agricultural business and must **not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses**.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce plant protection product use;
- target pesticide applications more accurately;
- reduce unnecessary pesticide application;
- reduce input costs;
- reduce environmental impacts;
- support integrated pest management; and
- improve the precision of crop protection operations.

Return to contents page

Camera-guided inter-row sprayer

About this investment

Supports precision crop management through camera-guided inter-row spraying. The system automatically distinguishes between crop rows and weeds and targets plant protection products at weeds growing between the rows, helping reduce herbicide use, input costs and environmental impacts.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Horticulture.

Item Score – 4.2

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £13,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **camera-guided inter-row sprayer**. The system must:

- use real-time image recognition to identify weeds;
- automatically distinguish between crop rows and weeds growing between the crop rows;
- automatically control the sprayer to spot spray weeds between rows of growing crops;
- independently switch individual spray nozzles on and off;
- have a minimum working width of **3 metres**; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Systems with a working width of less than **3 metres** are not eligible.
- Broadcast sprayers that do not provide camera-guided inter-row spot spraying are not eligible.
- Systems that do not automatically distinguish between crop rows and weeds between crop rows are not eligible.
- Systems that do not independently control individual spray nozzles are not eligible.
- Standalone cameras, sensors, software or individual components are not eligible unless purchased as part of the complete camera-guided inter-row sprayer.
- Software or activation codes purchased separately for existing equipment are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.

Important information

- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce herbicide use through targeted inter-row spraying;
- reduce unnecessary pesticide application;
- reduce input costs;
- minimise environmental impacts;
- improve the precision of crop protection operations; and
- support integrated weed management.

Return to contents page

Crop sensing and variable rate application system

About this investment

Supports precision farming through real-time crop sensing and automatic variable rate application of fertiliser and plant protection products. The system assesses crop requirements during field operations and automatically adjusts application rates, helping improve input efficiency and reduce unnecessary applications.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.4

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £20,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **crop sensing and variable rate application system**.

The system must:

- use **multispectral cameras** to scan the crop and calculate, in real time, the crop's fertiliser and/or plant protection product requirements;
- be mounted on a tractor or self-propelled sprayer;
- provide real-time variable rate application of fertiliser and/or plant protection products;
- automatically control the application of fertiliser and/or plant protection products and record application rates during operation;
- use **ISOBUS or an equivalent electronic connection** to the fertiliser spreader or sprayer to provide section control and variable rate control, enabling automatic rate adjustment during operation without operator input; and

- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- The purchase of a new tractor, self-propelled sprayer, fertiliser spreader or sprayer is not eligible under this item.
- Standalone cameras, crop sensors or software that do not provide the required real-time variable rate application functionality are not eligible.
- Software or activation codes for existing systems are not eligible when purchased on their own.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets and general-purpose computers are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.

Important information

- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- optimise fertiliser and plant protection product application;
- improve nutrient and input use efficiency;
- reduce unnecessary applications;
- reduce input costs;
- reduce environmental impacts; and
- support precision farming.

Return to contents page

Yield monitoring system

About this investment

Supports precision crop management by monitoring crop yield during harvesting. The information collected can help identify variations in crop performance and support future crop and nutrient management decisions.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 3.7

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £5,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an **electronic yield monitoring system retrofitted to an existing combine or crop harvester, including a forage harvester**.

The system must:

- monitor crop yield during harvesting;
- provide information on harvesting rate and total and partial area (field) crop yield;
- include a **yield sensor or weigh cell** compatible with the combine or crop harvester;
- include an **in-cab display or ISOBUS connection**;
- include software that enables yield data to be downloaded to an existing mobile phone, tablet or computer; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- The purchase of a new combine, forage harvester or other crop harvester is not eligible under this item.
- Software or activation codes for existing or pre-installed sensors and displays are not eligible.
- In-cab displays, ISOBUS terminals or software purchased without the required yield sensor or weigh cell are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets and computers are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must be retrofitted to an **existing combine or crop harvester, including a forage harvester**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- monitor crop yield and harvesting performance;
- identify variations in crop productivity;
- support yield mapping;
- improve crop management decisions;
- support more informed nutrient and input management; and
- support precision farming.

Return to contents page

Closed transfer system for pesticides

About this investment

Supports safer and more environmentally responsible handling of plant protection products by enabling products to be transferred into a sprayer through a closed system. This can reduce operator exposure and the risk of spills and environmental contamination during sprayer filling.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Horticulture, Mixed.

Item Score – 3.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £4,250

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **closed transfer system for transferring plant protection products into an agricultural sprayer**.

The system must be designed for either **containers up to 20 litres** or **containers over 20 litres**.

For containers up to 20 litres, the system must:

- comply with **ISO 21191**;
- include a coupler to compatible container caps that provides a clean, dry connection without leaks;
- allow air into the container while connected to the coupler to aid emptying;

- completely empty compatible containers;
- include an integrated rinse facility to allow containers to be rinsed; and
- include a dry-break coupler fitted to the sprayer to provide a clean, dry connection without leaks.

For containers over 20 litres, the system must:

- include a coupler to an Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC) that provides a clean, dry connection without leaks and complies with **ISO 21191**;
- include a flow meter with an inaccuracy of less than **1%**;
- include a control valve to control product flow;
- include a minimum of **3 metres of delivery hose**;
- include a dry-break coupler fitted to the sprayer to provide a clean, dry connection without leaks; and
- include a rinse connection for flushing and cleaning the transfer system.

The system must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- The purchase of a new sprayer is not eligible under this item.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- General transfer pumps, hoses or dispensing equipment that do not meet the relevant closed transfer system specification are not eligible.
- Individual couplers, valves, hoses or other components purchased separately are not eligible unless supplied as part of the complete eligible system

Important information

- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce operator exposure to concentrated plant protection products;
- reduce the risk of spills during sprayer filling;
- reduce environmental contamination;
- improve the safe handling of plant protection products;
- improve rinsing and cleaning of containers and transfer equipment; and

- improve the efficiency of sprayer filling operations.

Return to contents page

Crop Nitrogen sensor

About this investment

Supports precision nutrient management by measuring crop nitrogen status in real time and automatically adjusting nitrogen fertiliser application rates according to crop requirements. This can improve nitrogen use efficiency, reduce unnecessary fertiliser application and minimise environmental impacts.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.2

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £15,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification
The eligible capital investment must comprise a **tractor-mounted crop nitrogen sensing system capable of automatically controlling variable rate nitrogen fertiliser application**.

The system must:

- measure crop nitrogen status using **light reflectance sensors**;
- include a suitable mounting frame and be tractor mounted;
- provide real-time variable rate nitrogen fertiliser application;
- automatically control nitrogen fertiliser application and record application rates during operation;
- connect to the variable rate control system on a compatible fertiliser spreader to enable automatic adjustment of application rates during operation; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- The purchase of a new tractor or fertiliser spreader is not eligible under this item.
- Standalone sensors, mounting frames or individual components are not eligible unless purchased as part of the complete crop nitrogen sensing system.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers

purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- Software or activation codes for existing or pre-installed systems purchased separately are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.

Important information

- The fertiliser spreader must be capable of variable rate application and compatible with the crop nitrogen sensor.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve nitrogen use efficiency;
- target nitrogen fertiliser application according to crop requirements;
- reduce unnecessary nitrogen fertiliser application;
- reduce fertiliser costs;
- reduce nutrient losses to the environment;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with unnecessary nitrogen fertiliser use; and
- support precision nutrient management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Variable rate and section controller**, where variable rate functionality needs to be added to existing application equipment.
- **Crop sensing and variable rate application system**, where broader crop sensing and automatic variable rate application of fertiliser and/or plant protection products is required.
- **Yield monitoring system**, to provide crop yield information to support future precision crop and nutrient management decisions.

Return to contents page

Liquid fertiliser applicator for seed drills and planters

About this investment

Supports precision nutrient management by incorporating liquid fertiliser into the soil during drilling or planting. This can improve nutrient placement and nutrient use efficiency while reducing the risk of nutrient losses to the environment.

Suitable farm types – Arable, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.3

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £20,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **liquid fertiliser applicator for an existing seed drill or planter**.

The system must:

- incorporate liquid fertiliser into the soil as part of the drilling or planting process;
- be suitable for the working width of the seed drill or planter to which it is fitted;
- include a fill tank;
- include a hydraulic-powered pump;
- include a drill-mounted liquid distribution manifold;
- include pressure regulation;
- include a nozzle and pump flushing system;
- be capable of applying liquid fertiliser at different rates using built-in calibration;
- include a system to prevent nozzle blockages or a liquid blockage monitoring system;
- include an in-cab application control and monitoring system using either the display supplied with the equipment or an **ISOBUS connection**; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Systems that only surface-apply liquid fertiliser are not eligible.
- Systems used for the application of liquid plant protection products, including herbicides and fungicides, are not eligible under this item.
- The purchase of a new seed drill or planter is not eligible.
- Standalone tanks, pumps, manifolds, controllers or other individual components are not eligible unless purchased as part of the complete liquid fertiliser applicator.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers

purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must incorporate the liquid fertiliser **into the soil during drilling or planting**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the placement of fertiliser during drilling and planting;
- improve nutrient use efficiency;
- reduce unnecessary fertiliser application;
- reduce nutrient losses to the environment;
- support crop establishment; and
- support precision nutrient management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Variable rate and section controller**, where variable rate and section control is required on existing application equipment.
- **Crop nitrogen sensor**, to support real-time variable rate nitrogen fertiliser application.

Return to contents page

Soil and weather monitoring package

About this investment

Supports improved soil and land management through the monitoring of local weather conditions and soil compaction. The information collected can support decisions on cultivation, spraying, irrigation and crop and grassland management.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 3.6

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £2,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise **both a digital weather station and a soil penetrometer**. The two items may be purchased separately and from different suppliers.

The digital weather station must:

- connect wirelessly to a compatible computer, tablet or mobile device;
- measure and record at least **five** of the following:
    - barometric pressure;
    - air temperature;
    - relative humidity;
    - rainfall;
    - wind speed and direction;
    - ultraviolet (UV) levels;
    - soil moisture; or
    - soil temperature;
- store data in a form that can be used by decision-support systems for disease and pest prediction and spraying decisions; and
- include the sensors and mounting equipment required to provide the eligible functionality.

The soil penetrometer must:

- measure soil resistance between **0 and 400 psi**, or the equivalent in megapascals;
- include a probe with a graduated depth scale; and
- include **two probe tips**, one suitable for firm soil and one suitable for loose soil.

A digital weather station or soil penetrometer purchased on its own is not eligible. Both items must be purchased for the investment to be eligible.

Both items must meet the relevant minimum specification above and must be mew and fit for purpose.

Not eligible

- Consumer or domestic weather stations are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.
- Installation, servicing, calibration and annual software licence fees are not eligible.

Important information

- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 package per application**.
- Applicants must provide the serial or unique identifier number for each item, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- monitor local weather and soil conditions;
- identify soil compaction;
- support cultivation and soil management decisions;
- improve the timing of spraying and other field operations;
- support pest and disease management;
- support irrigation and water management;
- improve soil and resource management; and
- improve resilience to changing weather conditions.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Variable rate and section controller**, to improve the precision of fertiliser, seed or plant protection product application.
- **Crop nitrogen sensor**, to support real-time variable rate nitrogen fertiliser application.
- **Minimum tillage cultivator**, to support reduced soil disturbance.
- **Subsoiler**, where soil compaction has been identified.

Return to contents page

Central tyre inflation system

About this investment

Supports improved soil management by enabling tyre pressures to be adjusted from the cab to suit field and road conditions. Using appropriate tyre pressures can reduce soil compaction, improve traction and support more efficient field operations.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 4.1

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £10,000 per system

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **central tyre inflation system retrofitted to an existing agricultural or forestry machine**.

The system must:

- regulate the tyre pressure of **all tyres on the machine**, allowing tyres to be inflated or deflated from the cab to suit ground conditions;
- maintain air pressure in a tyre in the event of a slow leak until the machine can be moved to a safe place;
- include a pneumatic control unit;
- include an operator control panel;
- include wheel valves;
- include a pressure switch or equivalent pressure monitoring and control system; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- The purchase of a new agricultural or forestry machine is not eligible under this item.
- Factory-fitted systems purchased as part of a new machine are not eligible.
- Systems for cars, 4x4 vehicles, vans and commercial road vehicles are not eligible.
- Replacement tyres and wheels are not eligible under this item.
- Standalone compressors, valves, controls or other individual components are not eligible unless purchased as part of the complete central tyre inflation system.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must be retrofitted to an existing agricultural or forestry machine.
- Each system must be fitted to a **different eligible agricultural machine**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **2 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce soil compaction;
- protect soil structure;
- improve traction and field performance;
- reduce wheel slip;

- reduce fuel consumption;
- reduce tyre wear; and
- improve operational efficiency.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Soil and weather monitoring package**, to identify soil compaction and support soil management decisions.
- **Minimum tillage cultivator**, to support reduced soil disturbance.
- **Subsoiler**, where soil compaction has been identified.

Return to contents page

Handheld NIR analyser

About this investment

Supports improved forage and grain management through the rapid on-farm assessment of nutrient composition using near infra-red (NIR) technology. The information collected can support harvesting, storage, feeding and crop management decisions.

Suitable farm types - Arable, Mixed, Dairy, Beef, Sheep.

Item Score – 3.7

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £14,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **handheld near infra-red (NIR) analyser** for the analysis of forage and/or grain.

The analyser must:

- provide real-time assessment of nutrient composition;
- analyse forage and/or grain;
- measure and record **moisture and crude protein** and, where applicable to the material being analysed, **starch, fibre and ash**;
- electronically record analysis results; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Onboard NIR analysers fitted to agricultural machinery are not eligible under this item.

- NIR systems designed primarily for slurry analysis are not eligible under this item.
- Laboratory analysis services are not eligible.
- Ongoing subscription, licence or calibration costs after the first year are not eligible.
- Consumables are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.

Important information

- The analyser must be designed for **handheld on-farm analysis of forage and/or grain**.
- The **first year's subscription, licence or calibration service**, where required to operate the eligible analyser, may be included within the eligible cost.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the analyser serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve forage and grain quality assessment;
- support harvesting and storage decisions;
- support more accurate livestock ration formulation;
- improve feed and nutrient use efficiency;
- support more informed crop and livestock management decisions; and
- support precision crop and forage management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Yield monitoring system**, to monitor crop yield and harvesting performance.
- **Crop nitrogen sensor**, to support real-time variable rate nitrogen fertiliser application.
- **Real-time inline slurry nutrient analysis system**, where real-time slurry nutrient analysis is required.

Return to contents page

Slurry Management

Category overview

Investments in this category support improved slurry management through slurry separation, improved storage, nutrient analysis and precision application.
They are intended to help farmers make more efficient use of slurry nutrients, reduce ammonia emissions and nutrient losses, prevent unnecessary rainfall entering slurry stores, improve the accuracy of slurry application and support more sustainable management of organic nutrients.

The standard intervention rate applicable to investments within this category is **50% of eligible costs**.

Enhanced intervention rates of **60%** may be available to eligible Highlands and Islands businesses and **80%** to eligible new entrant businesses, subject to scheme eligibility requirements and the published **Maximum Cost** for each investment.

The investments within this category contribute towards one or more of the Future Farming Investment Scheme objectives by improving business efficiency and sustainability, protecting the environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting resilience to climate change.

Return to contents page

Slurry separator

About this investment

Supports improved nutrient management by separating livestock slurry into solid and liquid fractions. Slurry separation can improve slurry handling and management and support more targeted and efficient use of organic nutrients.

Suitable farm types - Dairy, Beef, Pigs, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.3

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £40,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **fixed or skid mounted slurry separator and the components necessary to install and operate the separator as a complete system**.

The separator must:

- be either a **mechanical screw press or roller and screen type, including systems using wedge-wire screens**;
- be capable of processing a minimum of **3 cubic metres of slurry per hour**;
- be capable of producing a stackable solid fraction with a dry matter content of **25% or greater**, in accordance with the manufacturer's specification; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and supplied as a complete, operational system**.

The eligible system may include:

- pumps necessary to supply slurry to or from the separator;
- pipework, hoses, valves and fittings necessary to connect and operate the separator;
- electrical controls and control panels necessary to operate the separator;
- mounting frames, gantries or supporting structures specifically required for installation of the separator; and
- other components supplied as part of the system that are necessary for its safe and effective operation.
- For skid-mounted systems, a purpose-designed skid or frame incorporating the separator and associated pumps and controls.

Not eligible

- Forms of slurry separation other than mechanical screw press or roller and screen systems are not eligible.
- General slurry infrastructure, including slurry stores, tanks, lagoons and unrelated pipework or pumping systems, is not eligible.
- Buildings and wider civil engineering works are not eligible.
- Replacement separators, screens, screws, rollers, pumps or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- Skid-mounted slurry separators are eligible where the separator and associated equipment form a complete purpose-designed system. The system may be moved between locations within the applicant’s agricultural business.
- Pumps, pipework, controls, gantries and supporting structures are only eligible where they are **necessary for the installation and operation of the eligible slurry separator**.
- The separator and all associated eligible components must be **operational before evidence of investment is submitted**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the separator serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve slurry handling and management;
- improve nutrient use efficiency;
- support more targeted use of organic nutrients;
- improve the management of solid and liquid slurry fractions;
- reduce the risk of nutrient losses; and
- support more sustainable slurry management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Onboard NIR slurry analyser**, to measure and record slurry nutrient content during application.
- **Slurry flow rate monitoring system**, to measure and record slurry application volumes.
- **Fixed or tensioned ring tank slurry cover**, to reduce ammonia emissions and prevent rainfall entering slurry storage.

Return to contents page

Onboard NIR slurry analyser

About this investment

Supports precision slurry nutrient management through the real-time measurement of slurry nutrient content during application. The onboard NIR analyser measures and electronically records nutrient levels as slurry is applied, helping improve nutrient application accuracy, nutrient use efficiency and the effective use of organic nutrients.

Suitable farm types - Dairy, Beef, Pigs, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.4

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £30,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an onboard **Near Infra-Red (NIR) slurry analyser** designed to analyse slurry nutrient content in real time during application.

The system must:

- use **NIR technology** to analyse slurry in real time;

- analyse and electronically record **nitrogen (N), phosphate (P) and potassium (K)** levels during slurry application;
- electronically record and store real-time nutrient data capable of being downloaded;
- include an **ISOBUS connection or in-cab display**;
- be linked to **Global Positioning System (GPS)** to provide nutrient application data for individual fields; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Portable or handheld NIR analysers are not eligible under this item.
- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- Recurring subscriptions, annual licence renewals, connectivity charges and ongoing software support costs after the first year are not eligible.
- Replacement sensors, controllers and other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- One-off activation, enablement or software unlock costs required to operate the eligible functionality may be included as part of the eligible cost.
- The first year's subscription or licence fee, where required to operate the eligible functionality, may also be included as part of the eligible cost.
- The system must be installed and operational before evidence of investment is submitted.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve understanding of slurry nutrient content during application;
- improve the accuracy of nutrient application;
- improve nutrient use efficiency;
- support more effective use of organic nutrients;
- reduce reliance on manufactured fertilisers;
- reduce the risk of nutrient over-application and losses; and
- support precision slurry management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Slurry flow rate monitoring system**, to measure and record slurry application volumes.
- **Handheld NIR analyser**, for portable nutrient analysis where an onboard slurry analysis system is not required.

Return to contents page

Flow rate monitoring system for slurry application

About this investment

Supports precision slurry application by measuring, recording and monitoring slurry application volumes during field operations. The system provides accurate application records linked to field location, helping improve nutrient management planning, application accuracy and the efficient use of organic nutrients.

Suitable farm types - Dairy, Beef, Pigs, Mixed.

Item Score – 3.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £5,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a slurry flow rate monitoring system.

The system must:

- include a slurry flow rate meter;
- include an **in-cab controller with display or ISOBUS connection**;
- accurately measure, electronically record and store the volume of slurry applied to specific field areas;
- be capable of electronically downloading application data to a compatible computer or tablet;
- have **Global Positioning System (GPS)** capability; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Systems unable to electronically record, store and download slurry application data are not eligible.
- Standalone slurry flow meters without an in-cab controller or ISOBUS connection are not eligible.

- Installation and commissioning costs may be included where they are necessary to install the eligible system and form part of the suppliers purchase and installation price. Costs not directly associated with installation of the eligible system are not eligible.
- Recurring subscriptions, annual licence renewals, connectivity charges and ongoing software support costs after the first year are not eligible.
- Replacement flow meters, controllers and other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- One-off activation, enablement or software unlock costs required to operate the eligible functionality may be included as part of the eligible cost.
- The first year's subscription or licence fee, where required to operate the eligible functionality, may also be included as part of the eligible cost.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicants own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve slurry application accuracy;
- support nutrient management planning;
- improve nutrient use efficiency;
- maintain accurate field-level slurry application records;
- reduce the risk of over-application and nutrient losses; and
- support precision slurry management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Slurry separator**, to improve slurry handling and nutrient management.
- **Onboard NIR slurry analyser**, to measure slurry nutrient content during application.
- **Handheld NIR analyser**, for portable nutrient analysis where an onboard slurry analysis system is not required.

Return to contents page

Fixed or tensioned ring tank slurry cover

About this investment

Supports improved slurry storage and nutrient management through the installation of a fixed or tensioned cover on an existing circular above-ground slurry ring tank.

This helps reduce ammonia emissions, prevent rainfall entering the slurry store, conserve slurry nutrient content and preserve available slurry storage capacity.

Suitable farm types - Dairy, Beef, Pigs, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.1

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £40,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a complete fixed or tensioned cover package for an existing circular above-ground agricultural slurry ring tank.

The package must include:

- the cover and all components necessary for installation;
- labour directly associated with fitting the cover;
- crane hire and appropriate safety equipment required for installation;
- an engineer's structural assessment and certification; and
- appropriate health and safety warning signage.

The cover must:

- be designed specifically for use on the existing slurry ring tank;
- be securely fixed or tensioned to the slurry store;
- include suitable gas vents to reduce the build-up of gases;
- have a minimum expected service life of **10 years**, in accordance with the manufacturer's specification; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and installed as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Any repairs or remedial works required to make the existing slurry store structurally suitable are not eligible.
- The construction, enlargement or replacement of a slurry store is not eligible.

Important information

- This item is only eligible for an **existing circular above-ground agricultural slurry ring tank**.
- Before purchasing the cover, applicants must ensure that the existing slurry store is structurally suitable for the installation.
- The existing slurry store must be **structurally sound, have no visible leaks and be capable of supporting the new cover**.

- Applicants must provide confirmation from an appropriately qualified engineer that the existing slurry store meets these requirements.
- The area of the installed cover, in **square metres**, must be stated on the invoice.
- Appropriate health and safety warning signage must be installed.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide evidence that the cover has been installed and is operational before submitting their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce ammonia emissions from stored slurry;
- prevent rainfall entering slurry stores;
- conserve slurry nutrient content;
- preserve available slurry storage capacity;
- improve nutrient use efficiency; and
- support more sustainable slurry management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Slurry separator,** to improve slurry handling and nutrient management.
- **Onboard NIR slurry analyser,** to measure slurry nutrient content during application.
- **Slurry flow rate monitoring system,** to improve slurry application accuracy.

Return to contents page

Energy and Resource Efficiency

Category overview

Investments within this category support the more efficient use of **energy and water across agricultural businesses**. They are intended to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improve water use and resilience, make better use of recovered energy and harvested water, and support more sustainable agricultural production.

The standard intervention rate applicable to investments within this category is **50% of eligible costs**.

Enhanced intervention rates of up to **60%** may be available to eligible Highlands and Islands businesses and up to **80%** may be available to eligible new entrant businesses, subject to scheme eligibility conditions and the published **Maximum Cost** for each investment.

Return to contents page

UV water treatment system

About this investment

Supports the treatment of water used for livestock drinking or the irrigation of horticultural crops. UV treatment can improve the quality of harvested or stored water and support more efficient use of alternative water supplies.

Suitable farm types - Livestock, Horticulture, Mixed.

Item Score – 3.6

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £1,000 per system

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an **ultraviolet (UV) water treatment system for agricultural use**.

The system must:

- include a **single-bulb in-line UV treatment unit**;
- treat a minimum of **30 litres per minute** at a minimum UV dose of **30 mJ/cm²**;
- include a **fine sediment filter installed before the UV treatment unit**;
- automatically shut off the water supply in the event of power or UV lamp failure;
- provide a **visual, audible or equivalent alert in the event of UV lamp failure**;
- be **Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS) approved**; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Domestic or residential water treatment systems are not eligible.
- Systems used solely to treat mains water are not eligible.
- Replacement UV lamps, filters and other consumable or replacement components are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must be used to treat water for **livestock drinking or the irrigation of horticultural crops**.
- The system must be installed and operational before evidence of investment is submitted.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **10 per application**.

- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the quality of water used for livestock drinking or horticultural irrigation;
- increase the effective use of harvested or stored water;
- reduce reliance on mains or abstracted water supplies;
- improve water resource efficiency; and
- support more sustainable agricultural water management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Rainwater harvesting and water storage system**, where rainwater is to be collected and stored for agricultural use.
- **Solar-powered livestock water pump**, where an off-grid livestock drinking water supply is required.

Return to contents page

Rainwater harvesting and water storage system

About this investment

Supports the collection, storage and use of rainwater from existing agricultural buildings for agricultural purposes. Rainwater harvesting can reduce reliance on mains or abstracted water supplies, improve water resilience and support more efficient use of water across agricultural businesses.

Suitable farm types - All.

Item Score – 3.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £12,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **rainwater harvesting and water storage system** designed to collect and store rainwater from one or more existing agricultural buildings for agricultural use.

The system must:

- collect rainwater from one or more **existing agricultural buildings**;
- include either:
    - one or more **prefabricated covered above-ground storage tanks** providing a minimum combined storage capacity of **10,000 litres**; or
    - one or more **purpose-designed below-ground storage tanks** providing a minimum combined storage capacity of **20,000 litres**;
- include an **entry filtration system** to remove debris before water enters storage;
- include the **diverters, pipework, fittings and connection components necessary to connect the existing rainwater collection system to the entry filtration system and storage tank**;
- include a **pump to distribute the harvested water**;
- include the pipework, fittings and control equipment necessary to operate the system;
- provide for overflow from the storage system to be directed to a **suitable clean water drainage system or other appropriate outlet**; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and installed as a complete, operational system**.

Where more than one storage tank is installed and connected as part of the system, the tanks must operate as a single rainwater harvesting and storage system and **only one entry filtration system is required**.

Not eligible

- New or replacement gutters and general replacement or repair of existing downpipes are not eligible.
- Standalone water storage tanks that do not form part of an eligible rainwater harvesting system are not eligible.
- New agricultural buildings, replacement roofing and other building works are not eligible.
- Reservoirs, lagoons, boreholes and mains water connections are not eligible.
- Excavation, groundworks and other civil engineering works associated with installing a below-ground storage tank are not eligible.
- Irrigation equipment beyond the components necessary to distribute harvested water from the rainwater harvesting system is not eligible.
- UV water treatment equipment is not included under this item and should be applied for separately under EN01 – UV water treatment system.
- Replacement tanks, pumps, filters or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- Harvested rainwater must be used for **agricultural purposes on the applicant's holding**.
- Existing agricultural buildings must already have suitable gutters and downpipes capable of collecting rainwater.
- Eligible connection pipework, diverters and fittings are limited to those necessary to convey collected rainwater from the **existing guttering or downpipe** to the eligible filtration and storage system.

- The system must be installed and operational before evidence of investment is submitted.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 complete system per application**.
- Applicants must provide serial or unique identifier numbers for relevant components, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- increase the collection and use of rainwater for agricultural purposes;
- reduce reliance on mains or abstracted water supplies;
- improve water resource efficiency;
- improve resilience during periods of reduced water availability;
- reduce demand on other water sources; and
- support climate change adaptation and more sustainable agricultural water management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **UV water treatment system**, where harvested water requires treatment for livestock drinking or horticultural irrigation.
- **Solar-powered livestock water pump**, where an off-grid livestock drinking water supply is required.

Return to contents page

Variable speed drive system for dairy pumps

About this investment

Supports improved energy efficiency during milking through the installation of variable speed technology on dairy vacuum or milk pumps. The system adjusts pump operation to meet demand, helping reduce electricity consumption, operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Suitable farm types - Dairy.

Item Score – 4.1

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £7,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **variable speed drive system for a dairy vacuum pump or milk pump**.

The system must:

- vary the operating speed of the pump to match demand;
- include a **variable speed drive and control system**;
- include all components necessary for the variable speed system to operate as intended; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and installed as a complete, operational system forming part of an agricultural dairy milking system**.

The eligible investment may comprise either:

- the **retrofit of variable speed drive technology to an existing compatible vacuum pump or milk pump**; or
- a **new variable speed vacuum pump or milk pump**, including the electric motor, variable speed drive and control system.

Not eligible

- Fixed-speed replacement vacuum pumps or milk pumps are not eligible.
- Standalone replacement pumps, motors, controllers or other individual components are not eligible.
- General electrical upgrades, rewiring or modifications to the dairy building are not eligible.
- Replacement parts and individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- A replacement pump or motor is only eligible where purchased as part of a complete variable speed system.
- The system must be installed and operational before evidence of investment is submitted.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce electricity consumption during milking;
- improve energy efficiency;
- reduce operating costs;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- support more sustainable dairy production.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Plate cooler for milk cooling**, to reduce the energy required to cool milk after milking.
- **Heat recovery unit for agricultural refrigeration systems**, to recover waste heat for use elsewhere in the agricultural business.

Return to contents page

Plate cooler for milk cooling

About this investment

Supports improved energy and water efficiency in dairy production by pre-cooling milk before it enters the bulk milk tank. This reduces the energy required for refrigeration and helps reduce electricity and water use, operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Suitable farm types - Dairy.

Item Score – 4.0

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £6,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **gasketed plate heat exchanger (plate cooler) for pre-cooling milk**.

The system must:

- pre-cool milk before it enters the bulk milk tank using cold water;
- include a **solenoid valve or equivalent automatic control system** to control the flow of cooling water;
- automatically stop the flow of cooling water when the milk pump is not operating;
- include all fittings and control components necessary for the plate cooler to operate as intended; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and installed as a complete, operational system forming part of an agricultural dairy milking system**.

Not eligible

- Bulk milk tanks and refrigeration units are not eligible under this item.
- Standalone replacement plates, solenoid valves, fittings or other individual components are not eligible.

- General plumbing, electrical upgrades or modifications to the dairy building are not eligible.
- Replacement parts, routine repairs and maintenance are not eligible.

Important information

- Both **standard and industrial plate coolers** are eligible where they meet the minimum specification.
- The plate cooler must be used to pre-cool milk before it enters the bulk milk tank.
- The system must be installed and operational before evidence of investment is submitted.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce the temperature of milk before it enters the bulk milk tank;
- reduce electricity required for milk refrigeration;
- reduce unnecessary cooling water use;
- improve energy and water efficiency;
- reduce operating costs;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- support more sustainable dairy production.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Variable speed drive system for dairy pumps**, to reduce energy consumption during milking.
- **Heat recovery unit for agricultural refrigeration systems**, to recover waste heat from milk refrigeration for use elsewhere in the agricultural business.

Return to contents page

Heat recovery unit for agricultural refrigeration systems

About this investment

Supports improved energy efficiency by recovering waste heat generated by agricultural refrigeration systems to pre-heat water for agricultural use. Heat recovery systems can reduce energy consumption and operating costs by making productive use of heat that would otherwise be lost.

Suitable farm types - Dairy, Horticulture.

Item Score – 4.3

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £10,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **heat recovery unit for an agricultural refrigeration system**.

The system must:

- recover waste heat from an **existing agricultural refrigeration system**, such as a milk cooling system on a dairy farm or a cold store on a horticultural unit;
- use the recovered energy to **pre-heat water for an existing hot water system**;
- include a heat recovery tank with a minimum capacity of **300 litres**;
- connect to an existing agricultural refrigeration system, water supply and hot water system;
- include the heat exchanger, controls and connection components necessary for operation; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and installed as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Standalone hot water cylinders, immersion heaters, water heaters and boilers are not eligible.
- New or replacement refrigeration systems are not eligible under this item.
- General plumbing or electrical upgrades and building modifications are not eligible.
- Replacement heat recovery tanks, heat exchangers, controls or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The heat recovery unit must be connected to an existing operational agricultural refrigeration system.
- Plumbing and electrical components are only eligible where they are **necessary to connect and operate the eligible heat recovery unit**.
- The system must be installed and operational before evidence of investment is submitted.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- recover and make productive use of waste heat from agricultural refrigeration;

- reduce the energy required to heat water;
- reduce energy costs;
- improve energy efficiency;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- support more sustainable agricultural production.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Variable speed drive system for dairy pumps**, to reduce electricity consumption during milking.
- **Gasketed plate cooler for milk cooling**, to reduce the energy required to cool milk after milking.

Return to contents page

Livestock Management and Animal Health

Category Overview

Investments within this category support improved livestock management, animal health and welfare through the adoption of modern livestock equipment and precision livestock technologies. Eligible capital investments are intended to improve animal health and welfare, increase labour and handling efficiency, support informed management decisions, improve livestock productivity and biosecurity, and support more sustainable and resilient livestock businesses.

The standard intervention rate applicable to investments within this category is **50% of eligible costs**.

Enhanced intervention rates of up to **60%** may be available to eligible Highlands and Islands businesses and up to **80%** may be available to eligible new entrant businesses, subject to scheme eligibility conditions and the published **Maximum Cost** for each investment.

Return to contents page

Handheld EID livestock reader

About this investment

Supports improved livestock identification, traceability and record keeping through the use of handheld Electronic Identification (EID) technology. These devices enable livestock information to be recorded electronically, supporting more efficient flock and herd management and better management decisions.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 2.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £1,250

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **handheld Electronic Identification (EID) livestock reading and recording device**.

The device must:

- use **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** technology;
- read and record individual livestock electronic identification tags;
- where the device is intended for use with cattle, be capable of reading UHF electronic identification tags;
- enable the recording of individual animal information including **births, weights, treatments, movements and breeding information**;
- provide functionality to input, access, record and display livestock information through the device, a compatible mobile application or cloud-based system;
- be capable of electronically exporting livestock data for livestock management purposes; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Ongoing subscription costs, connectivity charges and recurring software licence fees are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets, laptops and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.
- Replacement batteries, chargers and other individual accessories purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- The device must be compatible with the relevant livestock **Electronic Identification (EID)** standards for the species for which it will be used. Devices intended for use with cattle must be UHF compatible.
- Software required for the initial operation of the eligible device may be included.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the device serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve livestock identification and traceability;

- improve the accuracy and efficiency of livestock record keeping;
- reduce manual data entry and transcription errors;
- support more informed flock and herd management;
- improve labour efficiency; and
- support improved animal management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Automatic EID vaccination gun**, to electronically record individual animal vaccinations and treatments.
- **Automatic EID dosing gun**, to electronically record individual animal dosing and treatments.
- **Electronic sheep weighing system**, to support individual animal weighing and performance monitoring.
- **Electronic cattle weighing system**, to support individual animal weighing and performance monitoring.

Return to contents page

Automatic EID vaccination gun

About this investment

Supports improved livestock health management through the automated administration and electronic recording of vaccinations. The system uses individual animal liveweight data to improve dosing accuracy and electronically record medicine use, supporting more precise and efficient livestock health management.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 3.4

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £1,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an **automatic Electronic Identification (EID) vaccination gun**.

The system must:

- wirelessly communicate with a compatible electronic **weigh head or livestock EID reader**;
- automatically adjust the vaccine dosage according to the individual animal's liveweight;
- electronically record vaccination and medicine information;

- support the electronic upload or download of medicine records using wireless technology; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Standalone manual vaccination guns are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.
- Replacement guns, batteries or other individual components purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- The vaccination gun must be capable of connecting wirelessly to a compatible electronic livestock weighing system or EID reader.
- Software required for the initial operation of the eligible equipment may be included.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the accuracy of livestock medicine administration;
- reduce the risk of under- or over-dosing;
- reduce medicine waste;
- improve individual animal treatment records;
- improve livestock health management and traceability; and
- improve labour efficiency.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Handheld EID livestock reader**, to support electronic identification and individual animal record keeping.
- **Electronic sheep weighing system**, to provide individual liveweight information and support flock management.
- **Electronic cattle weighing system**, to provide individual liveweight information and support herd management.

Return to contents page

Automatic EID drench and pour-on gun

About this investment

Supports improved livestock health management through the automated administration and electronic recording of drench and pour-on treatments. The

system uses individual animal liveweight data to automatically adjust treatment dosage, helping improve dosing accuracy, reduce medicine waste and support more effective parasite management.

Suitable farm types - All livestock.

Item Score – 3.5

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £1,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an **automatic Electronic Identification (EID) drench or pour-on gun**.

The system must:

- wirelessly communicate with a compatible **weigh head or livestock EID reader**;
- automatically adjust the treatment dose according to the individual animal's liveweight;
- support the electronic upload or download of medicine records using wireless technology;
- be suitable for administering **drench or pour-on treatments**; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Standalone manual drench or pour-on guns are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.
- Replacement guns, batteries or other individual components purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must be capable of connecting wirelessly to a compatible electronic livestock weighing system or EID reader.
- Software required for the initial operation of the eligible equipment may be included.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the accuracy of livestock medicine administration;
- reduce the risk of under- or over-dosing;
- reduce medicine waste;
- support more effective parasite management;
- improve livestock treatment records; and
- improve labour efficiency.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Handheld EID livestock reader**, to support electronic identification and individual animal record keeping.
- **Electronic sheep weighing system**, to provide individual liveweight information and support flock management.
- **Electronic cattle weighing system**, to provide individual liveweight information and support herd management.
- **On-farm parasite testing system**, to support evidence-based parasite monitoring and treatment decisions.

Return to contents page

Static EID panel reader

About this investment

Supports automated livestock identification through the installation of a fixed Electronic Identification (EID) panel reader on a livestock handling system. These systems can improve the accuracy and efficiency of livestock identification and recording while reducing manual data entry.

Suitable farm types - Cattle, Sheep.

Item Score – 3.3

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £1,600

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **static Electronic Identification (EID) panel reader** for cattle or sheep.

The system must:

- use **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** technology;

- where intended for use with cattle, be capable of reading **UHF electronic identification tags**;
- where intended for use with sheep, be capable of reading the relevant **FDX-B and HDX electronic identification tags**;
- include an **antenna** suitable for the relevant EID technology;
- include suitable **wired and/or wireless connectivity** to enable livestock identification data to be transferred to compatible equipment or software;
- be permanently fixed to a compatible **cattle or sheep handling system**; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and installed as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Portable or handheld EID readers are not eligible under this item.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.
- Replacement readers, antennas or other individual components purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- The panel reader must be compatible with the relevant livestock Electronic Identification (EID) standards for the species for which it will be used. **Panel readers intended for use with cattle must be UHF compatible.**
- The panel reader must be permanently installed as part of a cattle or sheep handling system.
- Software required for the initial operation of the eligible equipment may be included.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve livestock identification and traceability;
- improve the accuracy of livestock records;
- reduce manual data entry and transcription errors;
- improve labour efficiency; and
- support more efficient flock and herd management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Electronic weigh bars for sheep**, to combine electronic identification with individual sheep weighing and performance recording.
- **Electronic weigh bars for cattle**, to combine electronic identification with individual cattle weighing and performance recording.
- **Automatic sheep weighing and drafting system**, to support automated identification, weighing and drafting of individual sheep.

- **Mobile sheep handling system**, where EID identification forms part of a wider sheep handling and management system.
- **Mobile cattle handling system**, where EID identification forms part of a wider cattle handling and management system

Return to contents page

Electronic weigh bars for sheep

About this investment

Supports improved flock management through the electronic weighing and recording of individual sheep liveweights. Electronic weigh bars enable liveweight gain to be monitored and support more informed flock management decisions.

Suitable farm types - Sheep.

Item Score – 3.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £2,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **complete electronic weighing package for use with a compatible sheep crate or handler**.

The system must include:

- **two electronic load bars** compatible with a sheep crate or handler; and
- an **electronic weigh indicator** compatible with the electronic load bars.

The electronic weigh indicator must:

- display and record individual animal liveweight;
- enable individual animal liveweight gain to be monitored;
- be capable of exchanging data with a compatible mobile device or computer; and
- be capable of exchanging data with compatible **Electronic Identification (EID) equipment**.

The system must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational weighing package**.

Not eligible

- The sheep crate or handler is not included under this item.

- Electronic Identification (EID) equipment is not included and should be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.
- Standalone or replacement load bars, weigh indicators or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The electronic load bars may be fitted to a compatible existing sheep crate or handler.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is 1 per application.
- Applicants must provide the serial or unique identifier number for the eligible equipment as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve flock performance monitoring;
- monitor individual animal liveweight and liveweight gain;
- support informed breeding, health and nutritional management decisions;
- improve livestock recording accuracy;
- improve labour efficiency; and
- support precision flock management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Handheld EID livestock reader**, to support electronic identification and individual animal record keeping.
- **Static EID panel reader**, to automate electronic identification within a sheep handling system.
- **Automatic sheep weighing and drafting system**, where automated weighing and drafting of individual sheep is required.
- **Sheep handler / turnover crate**, to support safer and more efficient handling of individual sheep.
- **Mobile integrated sheep handling system**, where a complete mobile handling system is required.

Return to contents page

Electronic weigh bars for cattle

About this investment

Supports improved herd management through the electronic recording and monitoring of individual cattle liveweights. Electronic weighing systems improve the

accuracy of livestock records, enable liveweight gain to be monitored and support more informed herd management decisions.

Suitable farm types - Beef, Dairy, Mixed.

Item Score – 3.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £3,000
Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an **electronic cattle weighing package capable of linking to Electronic Identification (EID) equipment**.

The system must comprise either:

- **two electronic heavy-duty load bars and an electronic weigh indicator**, suitable for retrofitting to an existing cattle crush; **or**
- an **electronic cattle weigh platform, two compatible electronic load bars and an electronic weigh indicator**, suitable for installation within a cattle race or crush.

Where an electronic weigh platform is included, it must:

- be a minimum of **2 metres in length**;
- have an **aluminium floor**;
- have a **non-slip surface**;
- be suitable for use within a cattle race or crush; and
- be compatible with the electronic load bars.

The electronic load bars must be suitable for the relevant cattle weighing application and compatible with the electronic weigh indicator.

The electronic weigh indicator must:

- display and record individual animal liveweight;
- enable individual animal liveweight gain to be monitored;
- be capable of exchanging data with a compatible mobile device or computer; and
- be capable of exchanging data with compatible **Electronic Identification (EID) equipment**.

The system must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational weighing package**.

Not eligible

- An existing cattle crush or handling system is not included under this item.

- Electronic Identification (EID) readers are not included and should be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.
- Replacement load bars, weigh indicators, platforms or other individual components purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- The load bar package may be retrofitted to a compatible existing cattle crush.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve herd performance monitoring;
- monitor individual animal liveweight and liveweight gain;
- support informed breeding, health and nutritional management decisions;
- improve livestock recording accuracy;
- improve labour efficiency; and
- support precision herd management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Handheld EID livestock reader**, to support electronic identification and individual animal record keeping.
- **Static EID panel reader**, to automate electronic identification within a cattle handling system.
- **Automated cattle weighing and monitoring system**, where automated collection of individual cattle liveweight data is required.
- **Mobile cattle handling system**, where a complete mobile cattle handling, restraint and weighing system is required.

Return to contents page

Automatic cattle weighing and monitoring system

About this investment

Supports precision livestock management through the automated weighing and monitoring of cattle without the need for manual weighing. These systems automatically identify and record individual animal liveweights throughout the day, supporting improved performance monitoring, early identification of potential health issues and more informed management decisions.

Suitable farm types - Beef, Dairy, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.2

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £10,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **standalone automated cattle weighing and monitoring system with integrated Electronic Identification (EID)**.

The system must:

- include a **weigh platform**;
- include an integrated **Electronic Identification (EID) reader**;
- include an electronic **weigh indicator**;
- automatically identify and weigh individual cattle **24 hours a day without human intervention**;
- automatically record individual animal liveweights;
- provide the ability to remotely monitor and record individual animal weights; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

An outdoor system may also include a **compatible solar panel** required to operate the system.

The complete system may include:

- a water trough;
- a feed or mineral trough; or
- a walk-through race.

Not eligible

- Standalone weigh platforms, load bars, weigh indicators or EID readers are not eligible under this item.
- Annual subscription costs are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must operate as a standalone automatic cattle weighing unit and be purchased as a **complete working system**.
- Water, feed or mineral troughs and walk-through race components are only eligible where supplied as an integral part of the complete automated weighing system.

- A solar panel is only eligible where supplied as part of a compatible outdoor automated weighing system and required for its operation.
- Where an ongoing subscription is required for the weighing system to function, the subscription service must be **available for a minimum of five years**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **4 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- automatically monitor individual cattle liveweight and performance;
- improve the early identification of changes in animal performance that may indicate health or welfare issues;
- reduce labour associated with routine cattle weighing;
- reduce the need to handle cattle specifically for weighing;
- improve management decisions through automated collection of individual animal data; and
- support precision herd management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Electronic cattle weighing system**, where cattle are weighed as part of a conventional handling and weighing process.
- **Mobile integrated cattle handling system**, where a complete mobile cattle handling, restraint and weighing system is required.
- **Electronic cattle heat and health monitoring system**, to support automated monitoring of individual animal health and behaviour.

Return to contents page

Automatic cattle drafting/shedding gate

About this investment

Supports improved cattle management through the automatic identification and drafting of individual cattle into different groups. Automatic drafting can improve the efficiency and accuracy of cattle handling, reduce manual handling and support integration with electronic identification and weighing systems.

Suitable farm types – Beef, Dairy, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.1

Maximum cost used to calculate grant – £12,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant.

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an automatic cattle drafting/shedding gate.

The system must:

- automatically draft cattle into two or more groups;
- identify individual cattle using compatible electronic identification technology;
- be linked to a compatible computer control, livestock management or Electronic Identification (EID) system;
- be capable of operating automatically with a compatible electronic cattle weighing system;
- have all ferrous metal components galvanised or powder coated; and
- be new, fit for purpose and purchased and installed as a complete, operational system.

Not eligible

- Manual drafting or shedding gates are not eligible.
- Standalone or replacement gates, controllers or other individual components that do not comprise a complete automatic drafting/shedding system are not eligible.
- Electronic cattle weighing equipment is not included under this item and should be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment.
- Standalone EID readers are not included under this item and should be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.
- Drafting or segregation gates that form an integral part of a robotic milking system are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must automatically identify and draft individual cattle without the operator having to manually select the appropriate drafting route for each animal.
- Automatic drafting/shedding gates installed within a conventional milking parlour may be eligible where they meet the minimum specification above.
- Where EID equipment forms an integral part of the eligible system, it must be UHF compatible for cattle.

- Compatible electronic weighing and EID equipment may be existing equipment or may be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment.
- One-off software or activation costs necessary to make the eligible system operational may be included.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicant's own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- automate the identification and drafting of individual cattle;
- reduce labour associated with routine cattle handling and sorting;
- reduce unnecessary manual handling of cattle;
- improve the accuracy and efficiency of livestock management;
- support integration of electronic identification, weighing and livestock performance information; and
- support more informed cattle management decisions.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Electronic weigh bars for cattle**, to support individual cattle weighing and performance monitoring.
- **Automated cattle weighing and monitoring system**, to automatically monitor individual cattle liveweight and performance.
- **Static EID panel reader**, to automate electronic identification within a cattle handling system.
- **Cattle squeeze crush**, to support safer restraint and handling of individual cattle.
- Mobile cattle handling system, where a complete mobile cattle handling facility is required.

Return to contents page

Automatic sheep weighing and drafting system

About this investment

Supports precision flock management through the automated identification, weighing and drafting of sheep. The system automatically reads individual animal EID tags and drafts sheep according to liveweight or other electronically recorded information, helping improve flock management and labour efficiency.

Suitable farm types - Sheep.

Item Score – 4.2

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £18,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an **automatic sheep weighing and drafting system**.

The system must include:

- an **automatic sheep drafting crate**;
- an electronic control system with **automated entry and exit gates**;
- electronic weigh bars;
- an electronic weigh indicator; and
- an integrated **Electronic Identification (EID) panel reader**.

The system must:

- automatically read individual sheep EID tags;
- automatically weigh individual sheep;
- automatically draft sheep based on their **current liveweight or other electronically recorded animal information**; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Standalone drafting crates or gates, weigh bars, weigh indicators, EID readers or other individual components are not eligible under this item.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.
- Replacement components purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must be purchased as a **complete working unit**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve the efficiency of sheep weighing and drafting;
- reduce labour requirements;
- improve the accuracy and consistency of drafting decisions;
- improve monitoring of individual animal performance;
- reduce the need for manual handling; and
- support precision flock management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Handheld EID livestock reader**, to support electronic identification and individual animal record keeping.
- **Electronic weigh bars for sheep,** where electronic weighing is required without automatic drafting.
- **Sheep handler,** to support restraint of individual sheep for routine husbandry procedures.
- **Mobile sheep handling system**, where a complete mobile sheep handling system is required.

Return to contents page

Electronic sheep weigh crate

About this investment

Supports improved flock management through the electronic weighing and recording of individual sheep. An electronic weigh crate provides a complete weighing system for monitoring individual animal liveweights and liveweight gain, supporting more informed flock management decisions.

Suitable farm types - Sheep.

Item Score – 3.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £3,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a new electronic sheep weigh crate with an integrated electronic weighing system capable of linking to Electronic Identification (EID) equipment.

The system must:

- include a sheep weigh crate;
- include an electronic weighing system;
- display and record individual animal liveweights;

- enable individual animal liveweight gain to be monitored;
- support the electronic upload and download of livestock data;
- be capable of linking to compatible Electronic Identification (EID) equipment; and
- be new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system.

Not eligible

- Retrofitting electronic weighing equipment to an existing sheep crate or handler is not eligible under this item. This should be applied for under electronic weigh bars for sheep.
- Electronic Identification (EID) equipment is not included and should be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.
- Ongoing software licence fees, subscriptions and connectivity charges are not eligible.
- Replacement weigh crates, weighing equipment or other individual components purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- The sheep weigh crate and electronic weighing system must be purchased together as a complete item.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is 1 per application.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve flock performance monitoring;
- monitor individual animal liveweight and liveweight gain;
- support informed breeding, health and nutritional management decisions;
- improve livestock recording accuracy;
- improve labour efficiency; and
- support precision flock management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Handheld EID livestock reader,** to support electronic identification and individual animal record keeping.
- **Static EID panel reader,** to automate electronic identification within a compatible sheep handling system.
- **Sheep handler,** to support restraint of individual sheep for routine husbandry procedures.
- **Mobile sheep handling system,** where a mobile system for gathering and handling sheep is required.

Return to contents page

Sheep handler / turnover crate

About this investment

Supports safer and more efficient sheep handling through the use of a purpose-designed sheep handler. The equipment restrains individual sheep to support routine husbandry procedures such as dagging and dosing, helping improve operator safety and labour efficiency.

Suitable farm types - Sheep.

Item Score – 3.5

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £4,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **purpose-designed clamp-style sheep handler**.

The sheep handler must:

- securely restrain individual sheep;
- be suitable for carrying out routine husbandry procedures, including dagging and dosing; and
- be new, fit for purpose and supplied with all components required for its intended operation.

Not eligible

- Standalone sheep handling races, hurdles, pens and drafting or shedding systems are not eligible under this item.
- Electronic weighing and Electronic Identification (EID) equipment are not included and should be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment.
- Replacement gates, clamps or other individual components purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- The eligible item must be a **clamp-style sheep handler**.
- A modular sheep handler designed to be transported and assembled at the point of use is eligible.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.

- Applicants must provide the serial or unique identifier number, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve operator safety during sheep handling;
- reduce the need for manual restraint;
- improve labour efficiency;
- support routine flock health and husbandry procedures; and
- support the safe and accurate administration of treatments.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Electronic weigh bars for sheep**, where electronic weighing equipment is required for use with a compatible sheep handler.
- **Mobile sheep handling system**, where a complete mobile system for gathering and handling sheep is required.

Return to contents page

Mobile sheep handling system

About this investment

Supports more efficient sheep handling through a mobile integrated handling system incorporating gathering and holding pens, a handling race and footbath on an integrated trailer. When used with compatible electronic sheep weighing equipment, the system supports improved flock management, animal health and labour efficiency.

Suitable farm types - Sheep.

Item Score – 4.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £11,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **complete mobile sheep handling system**.

The system must:

- include a purpose-designed sheep handling race;

- include compatible gates or hurdles sufficient to create gathering, forcing and holding areas;
- include a suitable shedding or drafting gate;
- be designed to be readily moved between sheep handling locations;
- comprise either:
- a system mounted on an integrated trailer; or
- a purpose-designed modular system capable of being transported and assembled for use at different locations;
- be manufactured from galvanised or powder-coated metal or aluminium; and
- be new, fit for purpose and supplied as a complete, operational system.

Not eligible

- Trailer-mounted systems must incorporate the trailer as an integral part of the handling system. Trailers capable of being used independently for general transport purposes are not eligible.
- Modular systems must be supplied as a complete purpose-designed mobile sheep handling system. Individual hurdles, gates, races or other components purchased separately are not eligible.
- Electronic weighing, Electronic Identification (EID) and automatic drafting equipment are not included within the Maximum Cost for LS11 and should be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment where required.

Important information

- The system must be specifically designed for mobile sheep handling.
- A footbath may be included as part of the complete system but is **not a requirement for eligibility**.
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the intended operating locations are suitable and that the system can be operated safely.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve flock handling efficiency;
- reduce labour associated with gathering and handling sheep;
- improve operator safety;
- support animal health and welfare;
- support routine flock health and husbandry procedures; and
- enable sheep to be handled efficiently at different locations across the farm or croft.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Electronic sheep weighing system**, to add electronic weighing and performance monitoring using compatible sheep handling equipment.
- **Automatic sheep weighing and drafting system**, where automatic EID identification, weighing and drafting is required.
- **Electronic sheep weigh crate**, where a complete electronic sheep weighing crate is required.
- **Sheep handler**, to support restraint of individual sheep for routine husbandry procedures.

Return to contents page

Mobile cattle handling system

About this investment

Supports safer and more efficient cattle handling through a purpose-designed mobile cattle handling system. The system combines facilities for gathering, handling and restraining cattle with electronic weighing equipment, supporting improved animal management, operator safety and labour efficiency.

Suitable farm types - Beef, Dairy, Mixed.

Item Score – 4.8

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £22,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **mobile integrated cattle handling system mounted on an integrated road-legal trailer**.

The system must include:

- a cattle handling race;
- gathering, forcing and holding pens;
- a cattle crush;
- a minimum of **24 metres of gates or hurdles** to create the gathering, forcing and holding pens;
- electronic weigh bars or an electronic weighing platform compatible with the cattle crush; and
- a compatible electronic weigh indicator.

The cattle crush may be manual or squeeze operated and must:

- be manufactured from metal that is **galvanised or powder-coated**;
- have a full-length adjustable head yoke;

- have a head scoop with quick release;
- have anti-slip flooring;
- have an anti-backing facility at the rear of the crush that can be operated from outside the handling race;
- allow both sides to be opened to provide access to the animal; and
- provide adequate animal restraint and safe, unobstructed access to the neck.

The electronic weigh bars or weighing platform must:

- be compatible with the cattle crush; and
- be compatible with the electronic weigh indicator.

The electronic weigh indicator must:

- display and record individual animal liveweight;
- enable individual animal liveweight gain to be monitored;
- be capable of exchanging data with a compatible mobile device or computer; and
- be capable of linking to compatible **Electronic Identification (EID) equipment**.

The complete system must be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Wooden components are not eligible.
- Electronic Identification (EID) equipment is **not included** under this item. The system must be capable of linking to compatible EID equipment.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.
- Replacement gates, hurdles, crush components, weighing equipment or other individual components purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- The handling system, cattle crush and electronic weighing equipment must be purchased as a **complete integrated system**.
- EID equipment may be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment, including **LS01 – Handheld EID livestock reader** or **LS04 – Static EID panel reader**.
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the intended operating location is suitable and that the system can be operated safely.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve operator safety during cattle handling;
- improve cattle handling efficiency;
- reduce labour requirements;
- improve monitoring of individual animal liveweight and performance;
- support safer restraint for routine animal health and husbandry procedures; and
- support more efficient herd management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Handheld EID livestock reader**, to support electronic identification and individual animal record keeping.
- **Static EID panel reader**, to automate electronic identification within a cattle handling system.
- **Electronic cattle weighing system**, where electronic weighing is required without a complete mobile cattle handling system.
- **Automated cattle weighing and monitoring system**, where cattle are to be automatically weighed without individual handling.

Return to contents page

Cattle squeeze crush

About this investment

Supports safer and more efficient cattle handling by providing improved restraint for routine animal health and husbandry procedures.

Suitable farm types – Beef, Dairy, Mixed

Item Score – 3.5

Maximum cost used to calculate grant – £15,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If costs are more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant.

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must be a manually, hydraulically or pneumatically operated cattle squeeze crush.

The cattle squeeze crush must:

- have a squeeze mechanism to provide adjustable restraint;
- have a full-length adjustable head yoke;

- have a sliding rear gate that can be operated from outside the crush and race to act as an anti-backing device;
- have sides that can be opened to provide access to both sides of the animal;
- have an integrated metal floor with an anti-slip rubber surface;
- be securely fixed when in use;
- provide adequate animal restraint and safe, unobstructed access to the animal's neck; and
- be manufactured from metal, with all ferrous metal components galvanised or powder coated.

A hydraulically or pneumatically operated squeeze crush must include the power-driven hydraulic or pneumatic pump required to operate the squeeze mechanism.

The cattle squeeze crush must be new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item.

Not eligible

- Cattle crushes that do not incorporate a squeeze restraint mechanism are not eligible.
- Cattle squeeze crushes containing wooden elements are not eligible.
- Electronic weighing equipment is not included under this item.
- Electronic Identification (EID) equipment is not included under this item.
- Races, forcing pens, gathering pens, hurdles and other cattle handling infrastructure are not eligible under this item.
- Replacement gates, panels, flooring or other individual crush components purchased separately are not eligible.

Important information

- A head scoop supplied as part of the new cattle squeeze crush may be included within the eligible cost.
- Electronic weigh bars for cattle may be applied for separately under the relevant FFIS capital investment.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- The equipment must be purchased for use in the applicant's own agricultural business and must not be used wholly or partly to provide agricultural contracting services to other businesses.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve operator safety during cattle handling;
- improve cattle handling efficiency;
- reduce labour requirements;
- support safer restraint for routine animal health and husbandry procedures; and
- support more efficient herd management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Electronic weigh bars for cattle**, where electronic weighing is required.
- **Handheld EID livestock reader**, to support electronic identification and individual animal record keeping.
- **Static EID panel reader**, to automate electronic identification within a cattle handling system.
- **Mobile cattle handling system**, where a complete mobile handling facility is required.

Return to contents page

Electronic cattle heat and health monitoring system

About this investment

Supports improved cattle fertility and health management through the automated monitoring of individual animals. Electronic monitoring systems can identify changes in activity, behaviour or physiological indicators associated with oestrus and animal health, providing alerts to support timely management decisions.

Suitable farm types - Beef, Dairy. Mixed

Item Score – 4.0

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £20,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **complete electronic cattle heat and health monitoring system**.

The system must include:

- a base unit, controller, receiver or equivalent equipment capable of recording, transmitting and processing individual animal data, where required for operation of the system; and
- individual animal monitoring devices sufficient to operate the purchased system.

Eligible individual animal monitoring devices may include:

- neck collars;
- ankle or leg-mounted transponders;
- electronic ear-mounted sensors;

- **in-vivo bolus sensors**; or
- equivalent individual animal monitoring technology.

The system must:

- automatically collect and process individual animal monitoring data;
- automatically detect and provide alerts for **oestrus or heat activity**;
- provide individual animal **health monitoring or health alerts** based on changes in monitored data;
- electronically record and report individual animal monitoring information;
- allow monitoring information and alerts to be accessed through a compatible mobile device, computer or herd management platform; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Statutory livestock identification tags are not eligible.
- Standalone replacement base units, controllers, receivers, collars, boluses, tags or other individual sensors are not eligible.
- Recurring subscriptions, annual licence renewals, connectivity charges and other ongoing costs after the first year are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.

Important information

- The base unit and individual animal monitoring devices must together form a complete operational cattle heat and health monitoring system.
- Where the technology does not require a separate physical base unit, an equivalent complete system meeting all of the required functionality is eligible.
- The eligible capital investment must comprise one complete electronic cattle heat and health monitoring system, including the monitoring devices necessary to operate the system.
- The system must include a minimum of **10 individual** animal monitoring devices suitable for monitoring cattle.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 complete system** per application.
- Eligible monitoring devices may include collars, ankle or leg-mounted transponders, boluses, ear-mounted sensors or equivalent technology.
- One-off activation or software enablement costs required to make the eligible system operational may be included.
- **Where a subscription or software licence is essential for the operation of the system, the first year's subscription or licence cost may be included.**
- Applicants must provide serial or unique identifier numbers for the system and individual animal monitoring devices, where applicable, as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve detection of oestrus activity;
- support timely breeding decisions;
- provide earlier identification of changes in individual animal health or behaviour;
- reduce labour associated with routine animal monitoring;
- improve individual animal health and fertility records; and
- support informed herd health and reproductive management.

Return to contents page

Calving detection system

About this investment

Supports improved calving management through the automated detection of calving events. Calving detectors monitor individual cows and heifers and provide an electronic alert when calving begins, enabling livestock keepers to attend the animal and intervene where required.

Suitable farm types - Beef, Dairy. Mixed

Item Score – 4.1

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £300 per detector

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **reusable electronic calving detector** designed to automatically detect when an individual cow or heifer begins calving.

Each detector must:

- be an animal-mounted sensor designed to be transferred between animals;
- automatically detect the onset of calving;
- automatically send an alert to a compatible mobile device or equivalent electronic device;
- include the hardware and accessories required for operation; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Standalone cameras, CCTV systems and general-purpose visual monitoring equipment are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.
- Replacement straps, batteries, chargers or other individual components purchased separately are not eligible.
- Subscription, software, data or connectivity costs after the first year are not eligible.

Important information

- Calving detectors must be **reusable and designed to be transferred between animals** during the calving period.
- Where software, data access or a subscription is essential for operation of the detector, the **first year's cost may be included** as part of the eligible purchase cost.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **25 detectors per application**.
- Applicants must provide the serial or unique identifier number for each detector as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- provide timely notification when calving begins;
- support timely attendance and intervention where required;
- reduce labour associated with routine observation of cows and heifers approaching calving;
- improve calving management; and
- support animal health and welfare.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Electronic cattle heat and health monitoring system**, to support automated monitoring of individual cattle fertility and health.

Return to contents page

Milk yield and conductivity meter

About this investment

Supports improved dairy herd management through the electronic measurement of individual cow milk yield and milk conductivity during milking. These systems provide individual animal performance information and can help identify changes that may require further investigation, supporting more informed herd health and production management.

Suitable farm types - Dairy.

Item Score – 4.2

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £1,750 per milking point

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an **electronic milk meter capable of measuring individual cow milk yield and milk conductivity**.

Each milk meter must:

- measure and record the **milk yield of individual cows**;
- measure **milk conductivity** for individual cows;
- be **ICAR approved for milk recording, or meet an equivalent recognised standard**;
- be compatible with the applicant's existing milking parlour or milking system; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational item**.

Not eligible

- Milk meters that measure only milk volume, milk yield, milking time or duration are not eligible.
- Standalone sensors and individual replacement components are not eligible.
- The construction, enlargement or replacement of a milking parlour or milking system is not eligible under this item.
- General electrical, plumbing and building works are not eligible.
- Subscription, software licence, connectivity and other recurring costs after the first year are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose computing equipment are not eligible.

Important information

- The **Maximum Cost applies per milking point** equipped with an eligible milk meter.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **24 milking points per application**.
- One-off activation or software enablement costs required to make the eligible equipment operational may be included.
- Where a subscription or software licence is essential for operation of the eligible equipment, the **first year's cost may be included**.
- Applicants must provide the serial or unique identifier number for the eligible equipment as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve monitoring of individual cow milk production;
- provide individual cow milk conductivity information;
- support the identification of changes in milk conductivity that may require further investigation;
- improve individual animal performance records;
- support informed herd health and production management; and
- support precision dairy management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Electronic cattle heat and health monitoring system**, to support automated monitoring of individual cattle fertility and health.
- **Calving detection system**, to provide automated alerts when individual cows or heifers begin calving.

Return to contents page

Waste milk and colostrum pasteuriser

About this investment

Supports improved calf health and biosecurity through the pasteurisation of waste milk and colostrum for feeding calves. Pasteurisation can reduce bacterial contamination and support improved management of milk and colostrum used for calf feeding.

Suitable farm types - Dairy.

Item Score – 3.7

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £9,500

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **waste milk and colostrum pasteuriser for calves**.

The system must:

- have a minimum capacity of **150 litres**;
- include an integral mixer;
- include an integral heating system;

- be capable of automatically controlling the time and temperature required for the pasteurisation cycle;
- include an automatic cooling function to reduce the temperature of the milk following pasteurisation to a temperature suitable for calf feeding;
- include a volume indicator;
- be designed to pasteurise waste milk and/or colostrum for feeding calves; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Mobile milk transport or dispensing systems that do not include an integral milk pasteurisation system meeting the minimum specification above are not eligible under this item.
- Standalone milk transport or dispensing equipment are not eligible.
- Standalone mixers, heaters, tanks or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- Milk pasteurised using the equipment must be for **calf feeding and not for retail or human consumption**.
- Waste milk used for calf feeding should not include milk from cows within an **antibiotic withdrawal period**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- reduce bacterial contamination of waste milk and colostrum used for calf feeding;
- improve management of milk and colostrum for calves;
- support calf health and biosecurity;
- support more consistent preparation of milk for calf feeding; and
- support more efficient use of suitable waste milk and colostrum.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Automatic calf rearing system**, to automate the preparation and feeding of milk or milk replacer to calves.
- **Milk yield and conductivity meter**, to support individual cow milk production and conductivity monitoring.

Return to contents page

Automatic calf rearing system

About this investment

Supports improved calf rearing through the automated feeding and monitoring of individual calves. These systems provide consistent feeding, monitor individual calf milk intake and provide alerts where feeding behaviour changes, supporting more efficient calf management and reducing labour requirements.

Suitable farm types - Dairy, Beef, Mixed.

Item Score – 3.9

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £13,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **complete automatic calf rearing system with washing facility and notification alerts**.

The system must:

- include one programmable automatic calf milk feeder;
- include one compatible feed station with an automatic washing facility;
- automatically identify individual calves;
- monitor individual calf milk intake;
- provide an alert where an individual calf is not drinking or is drinking less than expected;
- be capable of feeding a minimum of **30 calves** with whole milk and/or calf milk replacer;
- automatically clean the feeding tube and teat between feeds; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Additional calf feed stations are not eligible under this item.
- Standalone or replacement calf milk feeders, feed stations, washing equipment, teats, feeding tubes or other individual components are not eligible.
- Subscription, software licence, connectivity and other recurring costs after the first year are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must be purchased as a complete unit comprising **one programmable calf milk feeder and one compatible feed station with an automatic washing facility**.
- One-off activation or software enablement costs required to make the eligible system operational may be included.
- Where a subscription or software licence is essential for operation of the system, the **first year's cost may be included**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve consistency of calf feeding;
- monitor individual calf milk intake;
- identify changes in feeding behaviour that may require further investigation;
- reduce labour associated with routine calf feeding;
- support calf health and welfare; and
- improve youngstock management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Waste milk and colostrum pasteuriser**, to pasteurise waste milk and colostrum for feeding calves.
- **Calving detection system**, to provide automated alerts when individual cows or heifers begin calving.

Return to contents page

Automatic lamb rearing system

About this investment

Supports the automated feeding of artificially reared lambs through the preparation and supply of milk replacer. These systems provide consistent access to prepared milk replacer, reduce labour associated with routine feeding and support more efficient lamb rearing.

Suitable farm types - Sheep.

Item Score – 3.6

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £3,000

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise an **automatic lamb rearing system**.

The system must:

- be capable of ad-lib feeding a minimum of **30 lambs**;
- automatically mix milk replacer with water;
- include a mixer and heating unit capable of heating milk to the required feeding temperature on demand;
- include a minimum of **six feeding stations**;
- not require manual mixing or dispensing of milk; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- Home-built systems are not eligible.
- Milk trolleys are not eligible.
- Systems requiring manual mixing or dispensing of milk are not eligible.
- Standalone or replacement mixers, heating units, feeding stations or other individual components are not eligible.

Important information

- The system must be purchased as a **complete working unit**.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.
- Applicants must provide the system serial or unique identifier number as part of their evidence of investment.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- improve consistency of milk replacer preparation and feeding;
- provide artificially reared lambs with ad-lib access to milk replacer;
- reduce labour associated with routine lamb feeding;
- support consistent lamb nutrition and growth; and
- support more efficient youngstock management.

Other investments you may wish to consider

- **Electronic sheep weighing system**, to support electronic weighing and monitoring of individual sheep.

Return to contents page

On-farm faecal egg counting system

About this investment

Supports more targeted livestock parasite management through on-farm faecal egg counting. These systems enable livestock keepers to assess parasite burdens and use the results to inform parasite control and treatment decisions.

Suitable farm types - Sheep, Beef, Dairy, Goats.

Item Score – 3.5

Maximum cost used to calculate grant - £400

Your item may cost more or less than this amount. Enter the realistic, expected cost in your application. If it costs more, any amount above the maximum cost will not be included when calculating your grant

Minimum specification

The eligible capital investment must comprise a **complete on-farm faecal egg counting system for livestock**
.
The system must include:

- a microscope suitable for identifying and counting parasite eggs in livestock faecal samples;
- a faecal egg counting chamber or counting slide;
- equipment required to prepare and measure faecal samples for analysis; and
- the equipment necessary to undertake quantitative faecal egg counts.

The system must:

- be capable of detecting and quantifying parasite eggs in livestock faecal samples;
- provide a quantitative faecal egg count suitable for informing parasite management decisions; and
- be **new, fit for purpose and purchased as a complete, operational system**.

Not eligible

- The equipment must be purchased as a **complete faecal egg counting system**. Standalone general-purpose microscopes are not eligible.
- Laboratory testing services and veterinary diagnostic fees are not eligible.
- Replacement slides, reagents, sample containers and other ongoing consumables are not eligible.
- Mobile phones, tablets, computers and other general-purpose equipment are not eligible.

Important information

- Initial materials supplied as part of the complete system and required to make it operational may be included.
- Digital imaging or electronic recording equipment is not required for eligibility.
- The maximum quantity that can be applied for is **1 per application**.

Expected benefits

This investment can help:

- support evidence-based parasite management decisions;
- support more targeted use of anthelmintic treatments;
- improve monitoring of livestock parasite burdens;
- support responsible management of anthelmintic resistance;
- support livestock health and welfare; and
- reduce reliance on routine treatment where testing indicates that treatment may not be required.

Return to contents page