

What is the Whole Farm Plan?

The Whole Farm Plan was a recommendation from the Farmer Led Groups and will support our farmers and crofters to take a holistic view of their farm or croft. By establishing their current performance and activities, businesses will be able to better identify opportunities for improvement and work towards being more productive and profitable, better positioning them to contribute to meeting Scotland's climate and nature targets.

Once launched, the Whole Farm Plan will help businesses make more informed use of the future support framework.

What are the intended benefits of the Whole Farm Plan?

The benefits to farmers and crofters of carrying out a baseline review of their business activities is to provide them with an understanding of their current position in delivering Scotland's Vision for Agriculture, help them identify areas for improvement and allow them to assess the effectiveness of the implemented improvements (comparison between "before" and "after").

Each review will help identify opportunities for making best use of the future agricultural support packages to improve efficiency and sustainability of farm and croft businesses, while decreasing carbon emissions, increasing biodiversity and producing high quality food.

Who have you worked with to develop the Whole Farm Plan?

The Whole Farm Plan has been co-developed with the industry. This includes the WFP Steering Group which was established by the Cabinet Secretary in 2023. The group meets monthly and is comprised of representatives from NFUS, LANTRA, RSPB, Land Workers Alliance, Scottish Tenant Farmers Association, Scottish Crofting Federation and the Scottish Land Matching Service.

Further engagement has occurred with the Food and Agriculture Stakeholder Taskforce (FAST), ARIOB, NatureScot, Scottish Quality Crops, Quality Meat Scotland, Scottish Pig Producers, National Sheep Association (Scotland) and the Scottish Beef Association.

Co-development with the industry will continue as we work towards the full Whole Farm Plan

What audits and plans make up the Whole Farm Plan?

The individual audits and plans that make up the Whole Farm Plan have been selected as appropriate to ensure farmers and crofters undertake a baseline review

of their current land and livestock management practices to help them understand their current position in terms of efficiency and sustainability, carbon emissions and biodiversity.

The plans and audits are:

- Animal health and welfare plans
- Biodiversity audit (habitat map)
- Carbon audit
- Integrated Pest Management Plans
- Soil Analysis

By 2028, Nutrient management plans will be added to the Whole Farm Plan baselines, with the details developed through our co-design approach.

Who needs to do what audit / plan?

Animal Health and Welfare Plans are applicable to all businesses with management responsibility for any number of cattle, sheep, goats, deer, alpacas, llamas, pigs or over 350 poultry on their farm or croft.

Biodiversity audits are applicable to all businesses.

Carbon audits are applicable to all businesses.

Integrated Pest Management plans are applicable to all businesses that apply plant protection products (e.g. pesticides and herbicides).

Soil analysis is applicable to all businesses that apply artificial fertilisers and/or organic manures to permanently managed region 1 land.

How long are each of the plans and audits valid for?

Animal health and welfare plans – must be updated annually

Biodiversity audit (habitat map) – must be updated at least once every 5 years

Carbon audit – must be updated at least once every 5 years

Integrated Pest Management Plans - must be updated annually

Soil Analysis – all applicable land must be sampled every 5 years

You must ensure that all of the applicable plans and audits are kept in date.

How will these individual plans and audits come together?

A Carbon Audit (CA) will provide farmers and crofters with an “estimated” carbon footprint at a whole farm/croft and at individual enterprise level, regardless of the size

of a farm or croft and identify where the greatest emissions are being produced or are being/can be sequestered.

Having this knowledge will allow farmers and crofters to identify opportunities for increased resource efficiency and opportunities for them to reduce costs.

The Animal Health and Welfare Plan will focus on improving livestock efficiency, which in turn will lead to reduced emissions and increased profitability.

Soil Analysis and the Integrated Pest Management Plan will help focus on maximising the efficiency of and potentially reducing the quantity of chemical/organic fertilisers and pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, nematicides, slug control agents and plant growth regulators being used leading to reduced emissions, improving biodiversity and increased profitability.

The Biodiversity Audit/Habitat map will identify important habitats/natural capital on farms and crofts that is already being managed alongside existing agricultural practices and identify areas for the creation of new habitats such as unimproved grass banks or unproductive areas within fields that can be used to meet future Tier 2 (enhanced) requirements or could be managed under Tier 3 (elective) as well as potentially sequester carbon, reducing the farm or crofts carbon footprint.

This isn't a Whole Farm Plan, it is just a collection of plans and audits.

Once launched, the Whole Farm Plan will help business make more informed use of the future support framework.

Many businesses will already have these relevant components in place, but in recognition that some do not, and as part of our commitment to a Just Transition, businesses are being asked to undertake the plans and audits relevant to their business activities over a transitional period, starting in 2025. The intention is for all businesses to have completed their relevant plans and audits by 2028 at the latest.

How can I make the most of my plans and audits?

Many businesses will already use these plans and audits as part of their business planning, but for some this will be a new process. For advice on how to make the most of each of these plans and audits, see the Farm Advisory Service Website

What do I need to do for May 15 2025?

By 15 May 2025 all farmers and crofters who want to receive BPS in 2025 must have obtained at least two of the audits and plans that meet the minimum standard required for the Whole Farm Plan.

Farmers and crofters will be required to indicate what plans they have on their 2025 Single Application Form (SAF).

What do I need to do from 2026 onwards?

In 2026 it is likely that you will need to have more than 2 plans and audits. We will use the data from the 2025 SAF to determine what audit and plan uptake is and engage with our stakeholder networks to identify any potential challenges that the industry are facing in getting their plans and audits in place.

We will provide an update on 2026 requirements in summer 2025 as part of the Agriculture Reform [route map](#).

By 2028 at the latest, all businesses will need to have all relevant plans and audits in place.

Businesses should continue to update and review their plans and audits to ensure that they remain valid.

What plans or audits should I do first?

In 2025 businesses are free to pick the two plans and audits which they feel would provide their businesses with the greatest initial benefit.

Many farmers and crofters will have already completed some or all the audits and plans that make up the Whole Farm Plan and will already meet the requirements.

We would encourage businesses who can undertake more than 2 plans and audits in 2025 to do so.

Do I need to submit any information to SGRPID?

In 2025, only the biodiversity audit (habitat map) requires to be submitted to SGRPID. All other plans and audits must be made available at the time of inspection. In future years there may be a requirement to provide information relating to the other audits and plans.

Do I need an agent for the plans and audits?

Farmers and crofters understanding the information within each of the audits and plans and what it means for their business is central to the ethos of the Whole Farm Plan.

You do not need to use an agent or consultant, but you may find it helpful. FACTS and BASIS advisors, Specially Qualified Persons, Agronomists and members of the Feed Advisor Register may also provide helpful advice.

The Farm Advisory Service can also offer advice.

There are other experts across the agricultural sector who's advice you may also find helpful. Farm supply business staff can offer a wealth of knowledge. Even discussing your plans and audits with your neighbours and other farmers and crofters can be helpful.

Vet involvement is mandatory as part of the AH&W plan. Soil analysis must be conducted by a lab. All other components can be completed by the business without agent input.

What happens at inspections?

In 2025 if you are selected for an inspection, SGRPID inspectors will ask to see a copy of the plans / audits you indicated you had in place when you submitted your 2025 SAF.

They will check these plans meet the minimum standards and ensure they are in date. SGRPID inspectors are not marking the quality or accuracy of the plans.

Do I have to evidence acting on the recommendations or proposed actions of my plans and audits?

It is in your best interest to use the plans and audits to improve your business efficiency. However, you will not be penalised for not acting on the recommendations or proposed actions of the plans and audits.

Will penalties apply in 2025?

As part of our commitment to a Just Transition, penalties will not apply in 2025. Failure to comply will result in a warning later. Penalties will be introduced in future years.

What about small businesses?

We are committed to a Just Transition and ensuring that the future support works for small businesses.

The decision to require all businesses to have 2 plans or audits in 2025 was informed through stakeholder co-development

Minimum standards have been developed in a way to avoid any additional financial cost for small businesses.

We are aware that small businesses are less likely to have plans and audits in place currently and we will not penalise businesses who may find adopting plans and audits more challenging. This is why in 2025 penalties will not apply.

What support is available to complete my plans and audits?

Support is available through Preparing for Sustainable Farming for carbon audits and soil analysis.

You can also use free resources such as the [Scottish Integrated Pest Management Assessment plan](#) to create an IPM plan and the [Scottish Animal Health Planning System](#) to create an animal health and welfare plan.

Where can I find more details on the WFP requirements?

- RP&S website
- ARP Route Map
- Farm Advisory Service Website
- Your local SGRPID Area Office.

Animal Health and Welfare Plans

What is the benefit of having an AH&W plan?

Improving the health and welfare of animals will improve productivity as healthy animals are naturally more productive. Key to achieving these improvements in productivity is proactive and preventative health planning.

By ensuring livestock are healthy and productive, businesses will be able to reduce their emissions, contributing to Scotland's climate targets.

I undertook Animal Health and Welfare Interventions as part of PSF, is this acceptable?

No. PSF covered interventions, as part of the Whole Farm Plan businesses must produce an animal health and welfare plan.

Does a vet need to sign off my AH&W plan?

Plans do not have to be signed off by a vet. However, veterinary involvement in the holding is important and is expected as part of best practice. Businesses must confirm as part of their plans the following:

- a vet has been present on the holding during the past 12 months

In crofting areas, other veterinary involvement is also acceptable, crofters will need to confirm one of the following:

- a vet has been present at a township gathering points or communal locations to view stock from multiple holdings within the last 12 months: or
- the keeper is a member of a local flock or herd club that has regular veterinary input; or
- for businesses with less than 2 adult breeding cows or 13 breeding ewes the business can demonstrate that they have taken stock to a vet practice in the last 12 months.

Veterinary attestation provides evidence of veterinary involvement on the holding and businesses do not have to arrange an additional visit to the holding. Annual visits from veterinary practices as part of requirements to prescribe medications or carry out routine annual tasks such as castration and dehorning also provide evidence of veterinary involvement on a holding.

How do I evidence vet involvement?

You should be able to provide evidence of the date that a vet was on your holding and the reason why in the event of an SGRPID inspection. This may be through an invoice for example or your veterinary attestation.

How can I create a AH&W plan?

The format of AH&W plans is intended to be flexible. It is for the business, working with their vet or advisor, to decide the health and welfare priorities they intend to focus on. The size of the plan will vary depending on how many animals the business has.

There are many tools and templates which businesses can utilise to complete a plan. There a range of online tools such as [SAHPS](#) which is free and has been funded by the Scottish Government.

Businesses may prefer to use a paper plan and/or a template provide by their vet. Any plan or tool which allows the farmer or crofter to plan health and welfare which covers the minimum requirements will be accepted.

In instances where a business does not have a plan in place and does not want to utilise online tools or guidance, they should contact their vet, advisor or a Suitably Qualified Person to discuss creating a plan.

Can I use the FAS one-to-one service to create an Animal Health and Welfare Plan?

Yes, but you will still need to meet the requirements of in person veterinary involvement with your business.

What is a Suitably Qualified Person?

Suitably Qualified Persons (SQPs) are animal health professionals who are qualified to prescribe and dispense specific veterinary medicines. SQPs are registered with a regulatory body approved by the UK's Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

I have a AH&W plan as part of my supply chain contract / quality assurance, does this count?

In date health and welfare plans held as part of quality assurance schemes (for example QMS, Red Tractor), supermarket contracts or milk contracts are all valid and will be accepted as part of the WFP, as long as you are able to share these with SGRPID.

What do you mean by a disease risk assessment and management plan?

It is important to consider any disease risks on your farm or croft and how you can prevent or manage them. This part of the plan should set out the risks you know you might face and the ways in which you intend to prevent and manage this risk.

For example, newly purchased livestock could bring in diseases. You might seek to prevent that by only purchasing from high health status herds. You might also manage this risk further by quarantining new stock for at least 21 days.

Why do I have to include numbers for the target and actual livestock born?

Farmers and crofters should always be aiming to be as efficient as possible with regards to breeding. In this section you should outline your target number of livestock born and then record the actual numbers which were born.

We recognise that some farming systems (such as extensive hill flocks) may make it difficult to give the exact number of livestock born but these businesses should provide estimates to the best of their ability. This information is for your use only and will not be checked against your official livestock records.

We recognise that there are many reasons out with a farmer or crofters control that will mean the actual number of livestock born may be less than they set out in their targets. It is still valuable for you to consider why this might be happening in case there are things you can address.

What should I include in my livestock management calendar?

Any planned routine activities that you carry out to manage the health and welfare of your livestock.

For sheep enterprises for example, this may include when tups go in, scanning, when worming occurs, dipping etc.

You should also include any on – dogs on the farm or croft in this – for example dog worming.

What do you mean by a euthanasia policy?

The humane dispatch of livestock is an unfortunate reality all livestock keepers have to deal with. Members of the business may be qualified to do this, or a vet or fallen stock collector may have to be brought in. Businesses should account for this process for all of their livestock as part of their plan.

What details are required for fallen livestock?

Fallen stock must be collected, identified and transported without undue delay. This means as soon as reasonably practical under the circumstance. Businesses which use a licenced collector should note down their name of the collector and the licence number.

Those with a derogation for burial should note down the applicable site(s)

Why is a health plan only required for 350+ poultry?

This figure was set following advice from Scottish Government poultry experts. 350 is the number at which salmonella testing is required and it was felt it was appropriate that whatever number was chosen aligned with existing expectations.

50 birds is the point by which a keeper must register with Animal Health and Welfare.

Why isn't there an exemption for businesses with only small numbers of livestock?

Animal health and welfare is important no matter the scale of the enterprise and number of livestock kept. Businesses will find that the scale of the plan they produce will be proportional to the number of stock they keep.

I only buy in livestock for a short period of time, do I need a plan?

If you declare livestock on your SAF, you must have a plan in place.

What about Cross Compliance?

All existing cross compliance rules relating to livestock are still applicable and must be followed.

Carbon Audits

What is the benefit of having a carbon audit?

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture is essential for Scotland to meet its carbon reduction commitments and to improve farm/croft efficiency and profitability. High carbon emissions tend to be linked to high use of resources, and/or wastage, so reducing emissions can also help to reduce costs.

Before being able to reduce emissions, all farmers and crofters must first understand the source of these emissions.

A Carbon Audit identifies the main sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that farmers and crofters may otherwise be unaware of and should be used to help inform decision-making opportunities for potential changes to livestock and land management practices.

I completed a carbon audit as part of PSF, is this acceptable?

Yes.

I completed a carbon audit as part of FAS one-to-one service, is this acceptable?

Yes, providing the carbon audit is not older than 5 years old on 15 May 2025.

I have a carbon audit as part of my supply chain contract / quality assurance, does this count?

Yes, providing it is not older than 5 years old on 15 May 2025.

How can I complete a carbon audit?

Businesses can choose from one of the following carbon audit tools:

- a. AgRE Calc
 - free for individual farmers, offering one farm profile and report a year, and access to general industry benchmarks.
 - Agrecalc footprints the whole farm before using the data to also provide enterprise- and product-specific reports.
- b. Cool Farm Tool
 - predominantly aimed at arable, beef and dairy. Less suited for upland.
 - output based on a crop or product basis rather than a farm or enterprise level
- c. Farm Carbon Calculator Tool
 - Output is on a whole farm or enterprise basis

d. Solagro (JRC) Carbon Calculator

Businesses should select the carbon audit tool which suit their business scale and activities.

Can I do a carbon audit myself?

Yes. However once you have completed the audit, you may find it helpful to discuss the results with an advisor.

The guidance says my carbon audit must be supplemented by recommendations. What does this mean?

Some carbon audit tools produce recommendations, while others will just provide figures for emissions. The figures themselves are useful as they allow you to track progress, but recommendations will help you take appropriate action. If the carbon audit tool you choose to use does not provide recommendations, you may find it helpful to seek the advice of an agent or consultant about potential recommendations. You can also seek out recommendations yourself from sources such as the Farm Advisory Service. You should keep a note of the recommendations you are aiming to adopt.

I've heard different carbon audits give different results, is this true?

The carbon audit tools are all slightly different. We recommend that you use the same tool over time so you can more accurately track your progress. Businesses should use the tool they prefer, not the tool which shows the lowest carbon footprint.

What if my carbon footprint goes up? Will I lose funding?

A carbon audit is a tool which will allow you to track your carbon footprint and opportunities to reduce it. There are many businesses changes which may result in an increase in your carbon footprint. This will not impact your funding.

I don't find carbon audits useful for my small business.

We are aware of feedback from stakeholders that some small businesses do not find carbon audits beneficial in the current format. We will continue to work with the industry to ensure that all farms and crofts, regardless of scale, can access carbon audit tools that provide value for their business.

Biodiversity Audits

What is the benefit of having a biodiversity audit?

Maintaining and restoring biodiversity is crucial in tackling the climate crisis, and tackling the climate crisis will be essential for restoring biodiversity. This is why it plays a key part of the Scottish Government's Agriculture Reform Programme to deliver our 'Vision for Agriculture'.

From 2026 at least half of all funding for farming and crofting will be targeted towards outcomes for biodiversity gain and climate mitigation and adaptation. To prepare for this it is important that every farmer and crofter understands what biodiversity exists on their farms and crofts.

The WFP Biodiversity Audit should be seen as the first step on a learning journey in considering how managing biodiversity can fit alongside agriculture production on farms and crofts.

Can I use FAS one-to-one service to help with my biodiversity audit?

Providing the appropriate habitat categories are used to produce the habitat map, for all permanent land for which you are responsible for (excluding seasonal land), yes.

How can I create a biodiversity audit habitat map?

Farmers and crofters will be able to create their whole farm/croft biodiversity audit/habitat map through one of the following:

- Online, using the habitat layer of the SGRPID Land Parcel Information System (LPIS).
- By completing a paper map, which will be uploaded to LPIS by the SGRPID Land Mapping Team or
- The NatureScot Biodiversity Audit using the Farm Biodiversity Scotland app (still under development and being tested with more farmers and crofters in 2024, and to be widely available from 2025).

Can I use the NatureScot App to complete my biodiversity audit?

Yes.

I have a share in a common grazing, what do I have to do?

If you have a share in a common grazing, in 2025 you do not need to map this common grazing. The Scottish Government is continuing to co-develop a proportionate approach to account for these valuable areas in the future as part of the wider ARP.

Common grazings managed and used to claim support by a single business (such as a sheep stock club) are required to complete a biodiversity audit of the common grazing.

What do I do about seasonal land?

For 2025 you do not need to map seasonal land. You only have to complete the habitat map for land you are responsible for on a permanent basis (excluding common grazing shares).

The Scottish Government is continuing to co-develop a proportionate approach to account for these valuable areas in the future as part of the wider ARP.

I have a biodiversity audit as part of my supply chain contract / quality assurance, does this count?

Providing you have used the correct WFP habitat categories, it covers all the land you are responsible for on a permanent basis (excluding common grazing shares) and it meets the minimum standards, yes.

If this is not the case, you will need to update any existing maps to ensure that they meet the minimum standards.

Why do I have to use the Scottish Government habitat categories?

The WFP habitats were recommended by NatureScot as part of the co-design process. By using the same habitat categories, the Scottish Government land mapping team can digitise your habitat map

Collating the habitat data produced as part of the Whole Farm Plan is an opportunity for Scottish Government to produce a national picture of the habitats across Scottish farms and crofts. This will help inform future policy making to ensure the correct support is in place to ensure farmers and crofters can continue to protect and enhanced nature.

How did you decide on these habitat categories?

The full list of WFP habitats have been recommended by NatureScot as part of the co-design process

Why do I need to provide SGRPID with my habitat map?

Collating the habitat data produced as part of the Whole Farm Plan is an opportunity for Scottish Government to produce a national picture of the habitats across Scottish farms and crofts. This will help inform future policy making to ensure the correct

support is in place to ensure farmers and crofters can continue to protect and enhanced nature.

I created a Farm Environmental Assessment map as part of my AECS contract, does this count?

Farm Environmental Assessment (FEA) maps supplied by farmers and crofters who have a 2022, 2023 and 2024 AECS contracts partially meet the WFP Biodiversity requirements but will need updated with additional habitat information (not required by the FEA) and ensure that habitat information is provided for all land that you are responsible for on a permanent basis (excluding seasonal land and common grazing shares).

Do I have to map my entire farm/croft?

Yes, you should select at least one habitat for all land you are responsible for on a permanent basis (excluding seasonal land and common grazing shares), including existing white space.

There are multiple habitats in a field, what should I do?

At a minimum, you should select at least one of the Whole Farm Plan habitats that best describes the majority of land cover for each field. We encourage you to map with as much detail as you can so mapping all the habitats you can identify is encouraged.

What if I identify the wrong habitat?

As long as you have attempted to identify the correct habitat across all your permanently managed land, you will not be penalised for any errors in identifying habitat categories.

This isn't a biodiversity audit, it's just a habitat map.

For the majority of farmers and crofters, the biodiversity audit will be the baseline they are least familiar with. At this stage Scottish Government wants to ensure all farmers and crofters are able to start the journey of identifying and mapping the biodiversity they have on their farms. This will help them make better use of future support under Tiers 2 and 3.

The minimum standards of the biodiversity audit will develop over time and become more ambitious, but this is the first step on the journey.

Soil Analysis

What is the benefit of undertaking soil analysis?

Soil analysis can benefit all farming systems by increasing the efficient use of chemical fertilisers, livestock slurry, farmyard manure, sewage waste and digestate inputs which will lead to lower agricultural emissions and increased business profitability.

Without soil testing, it is very difficult to ensure the right application of fertilisers for the crop and get the optimum yield. Soil analysis gives valuable information, essential for soil quality improvement. By tracking the exact amount of soil nutrients, farmers and crofters can easily adjust fertilisation in accordance with soil and crop requirements, saving them money and reducing emissions.

I completed soil analysis as part of PSF, is this acceptable?

Yes, but you must ensure that you have in date soil analysis results for all Region 1 land that you are responsible for on a permanent basis by 15 May 2028 (excluding seasonal land and common grazing shares).

What do I do about Region 1 seasonal land?

You do not have to complete soil analysis on seasonal land or common grazing shares.

The Scottish Government is continuing to co-develop a proportionate approach to account for these valuable areas in the future as part of the wider ARP.

I have region 1 land that I don't apply artificial fertilisers and/or organic manures to, do I need to do soil analysis?

No, but you may wish to consider other elements of soil health. Resources are available at the Farm Advisory Service website.

Is there a minimum number of samples required per field?

There is no minimum number of samples that should be taken per field but it is recommended to walk a 'W' pattern across the field, taking at least five samples to a depth of 7 cm for grass and 15 cm for arable fields on each leg of the W.

Is there a minimum percentage of the farm that needs to be soil sampled?

You can adopt a sampling interval that suits you providing all Region 1 managed on a permanent basis that you apply artificial fertilisers and/or organic manure to is sampled at least once every 5 years and by 15 May 2028 all Region 1 land has been sampled within 5 years.

My existing soil analysis doesn't cover soil carbon, does it still count?

Businesses which are already part way through their soil sampling cycle and have not been sampling for soil carbon are not expected to repeat in-date analysis. However, any new analysis that is carried out from 1 July 2024 onwards must include soil carbon.

I carry out soil analysis as part of my supply chain contract / quality assurance, does this count?

Any soil analysis carried out as part of a quality assurance or supply chain schemes will be accepted acceptable, providing it includes details on pH level, Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Carbon as a minimum.

Do I need an advisor to carry out my soil analysis?

Soil analysis must be carried out by a lab. You do not need to use an advisor, although businesses may wish to seek the advice of a FACTS qualified advisor

What sampling method is required for soil carbon and pH?

The Carbon test may be a Loss on Ignition (LOI) or a Dumas test. Both methods provide accurate readings of the Carbon levels in soil.

Businesses may choose to include the Carbon and pH tests for every analysed sample or may choose to combine separate samples from the entire field and perform as a separate Carbon and pH test for every sampled field both methods are acceptable.

Do I need to do a nutrient management plan?

For 2025 no. However, by 2028, nutrient management plans will be part of the Whole Farm Plan requirements. We therefore recommend that once a business has received their soil analysis, they create a nutrient management plan.

A Nutrient Management Plan provides recommendations for crop and grassland nutrient requirements, based on the determined nutrient status of soils. It is recommended that in Scotland, fertiliser recommendations for crop and grassland are based on relevant SRUC technical notes for the tested nutrients and for nitrogen and that any nutrients available from the application of all fertilisers (including slurry and farmyard manure) should also be accounted for when developing a plan.

It is recommended that Nutrient Management Plans are prepared using PLANET (Planning Land Applications of Nutrients for Efficiency and the environment), which is a free to use nutrient management decision support tool. Other programmes which allow you to produce a nutrient management plan are also acceptable as long as

they are relevant to Scottish conditions and fertiliser recommendations are based on relevant SRUC technical notes.

Integrated Pest Management Plans

What is the benefit of having a IPM plan?

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a whole farm approach to managing the land, maximising the efficiency of production whilst minimising negative effects on the environment.

It combines a range of tools to more efficiently target the application of plant protection products (pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, nematicides, slug control agents and plant growth regulators) thereby reducing the risk of pesticide resistance.

Completing an IPM plan can help farmers comply with their legal requirement to take reasonable precaution to reduce risks to human health, the environment and biodiversity when using pesticides.

How can I create an IPM plan?

It is recommended that any businesses without a current plan should utilise the free Scottish IPM assessment plan tool available on the Plant Health Centre website:

<https://www.planthealthcentre.scot/scottish-ipm-assessment-plan>

I have an IPM plan as part of my supply chain contract / quality assurance, does this count?

IPM plans required as part of existing supply chain contracts are acceptable providing they are in-date.

I have an IPM plan created by a BASIS advisor, does this count?

Plans created by a BASIS advisor are also acceptable, providing they are in-date.

What if I don't end up following through with my plan?

We understand that farming is unpredictable and you may have to deviate from the practices that you intended due to unforeseen circumstances. Your plan is not binding and there will be no repercussions if you cannot follow it.

What about cross compliance?

All existing cross compliance rules relating to plant protection products are still applicable.