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FARMING INVESTMENT FUND (Round 1)

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) have launched their Farming Investment Fund (FIF). The FIF is a new initiative under the prosperity and productivity funding in England's Agricultural Transition Plan to support an increase in productivity in an environmentally sustainable way. The FIF provides grants over two funds:

- Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (grant between £2,000 and £25,000)
- Farming Transformation Fund (grant between £35,000 and £500,000)

The funds are open to a wider range of applicants, including farmers, horticulturists, forestry owners and now also agricultural contractors and those who have not previously claimed the Basic Payment Scheme.

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund

This fund provides grant support towards buying items from a list of 158 new equipment and technology items (second hand or home built items are ineligible). The fund is similar to the Countryside Productivity Grant Scheme which some of you might have been familiar with. The application window is **16th November 2021 to 7th January 2022** and provides a maximum grant of **£25,000** (minimum grant £2,000) for items in the following categories:

- Horticulture
- Forestry
- Resource Management
- Precision and Analysis
- Livestock Handling and Weighing Equipment
- Other Livestock Equipment
- General items

A full list of the items available in each category can be viewed here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-round-1-manual/annex-3-eligible-items-specification-and-grant-amount

Each item has a grant contribution based on 40%-50% of the RPA's assessment for the standard cost.

Contact us for advice

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The grant items must be purchased, delivered and claimed by **30th September 2022**. The claim must be accompanied by supporting documents (e.g. claim form, invoice, payment evidence, photos of item(s) its serial number and CE or UKCA marking).

Farming Transformation Fund

This fund provides grant of **£35,000 to £500,000** towards larger capital items to help businesses improve productivity, profitability and environmental sustainability. The grants are separated into 3 themes:

- Water Management
- Improving Farm Productivity
- Adding Value

The Farming Transformation Fund will operate a two-stage process. An initial on-line "eligibility and desirability" check is made by the RPA and if your project is found "eligible and desirable" when assessed against the funding priorities you will be invited to make a full application.

The first theme of the Farming Transformation Fund is the **Water Management Fund** which provides grants for capital items to improve farm productivity through more efficient use of water for irrigation, and to secure water supplies for crop irrigation by the construction of on-farm reservoirs and the adoption of best practice irrigation application equipment

The Water Management Fund application window for the initial "eligibility and desirability" check stage is **16th November 2021 to 12th January 2022** and if you are invited to make a full application the deadline to do so is **30th June 2022**.

More details of the Water Management Fund can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-transformation-fund-water-management-grant-manual

The **Improving Farm Productivity** opens later this year and the **Adding Value** opens early next year. More details on these themes will follow once published by the RPA.

If you require any advice or assistance with Round 1 of the Farming Investment Fund then please contact one of our team.

Contact us for advice

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