

Farmland Conservation

Farmland supports the UK's most valuable habitats that in turn, sustain our most loved species of bird, flower, insect and mammal. Farmers have been custodians of this valued landscape for centuries, funding their efforts through their own pockets. Now, some rewards are available through optional grant schemes but all farmers need to be aware of the conservation assets and responsibilities to the environment in order to claim the Single Payment. FWAG can highlight the valuable landscape, wildlife and historic features on your holding and demonstrate how you can make a difference to the environment without compromising your farm business.



The benefits

FWAG can help you...

- Meet your cross compliance responsibilities.
- Attain the environmental standards necessary for Quality Assurance schemes such as Tesco Nature's Choice and LEAF Marque.
- Secure grant aid for farm conservation work on your farm.
- Understand the importance and value of the conservation habitats and features on your farm.
- Increase the conservation awareness of everyone involved in the farm business, making your farm a better place to work and live.

What you receive

- A farm visit from a FWAG Adviser providing practical face-to-face advice on how you can conserve and enhance the natural features on your farm.
- An overview of the grant aid that will contribute towards the cost of undertaking this management.
- A follow-up report that will highlight the main habitats and features on your holding; why they are important to the landscape and for wildlife and summarizing the advice given during the farm visit.
- An action plan that sets out work to be undertaken to ensure that the conservation value of the holding is conserved and enhanced where possible.
- Links to further specialist sources of advice and on-going support.



FWAG's Farmland Conservation advice includes:

Biodiversity

FWAG's biodiversity advice helps you protect and enhance the variety of wildlife on your farm through:

- Identification of the important habitats on your farm and an explanation of why they are important for wildlife.
- Management advice to help maintain, enhance and where appropriate create habitats.
- Information about important local and national BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) species on your land and guidance as to how you can help to protect and encourage them.

Historic Environment

Your farm can tell a fascinating story about the past; features such as ridge and furrow, ancient hedgerows, tumuli and buildings all provide an insight into past farming and land use practices that have shaped our historic environment.

FWAG can help you to learn more about the history of your farm:

- Explaining the historical context of your farm and its importance.
- Identifying the important archaeological features on your farm.
- Providing information about the history behind the features and why it is important to conserve them for future generations.
- Guidance to help you protect the historic features on your farm.

Landscape

Farmers have helped to shape the British landscape for centuries. FWAG can help you appreciate the importance of your farmed landscape, how it contributes to your local area and why informed decisions can make a positive impact on the countryside.

FWAG can provide you with:

- An explanation of your 'Joint Character Area' and the local landscape within which your farm is situated and why it is significant.
- A summary of the local targets for conserving and restoring local landscape features and how you can do your bit.
- A record of important landscape features on your farm.
- Guidance on how to maximize the impact of your future plans for the farm on your local landscape.

All FWAG Landmanager® Conservation Plans will include:

- An annotated farm map showing key features across your holding.
- Practical advice and guidance that takes into account the need to operate a viable farm business.
- A plan of agreed actions that will help you to realise your ambitions for your farm whilst securing maximum grant aid to help you do this.
- A list of sources of further advice to help you to consider opportunities for the future.

Conservation Plans available also include:

- Whole Farm Plan (WFP) including habitat evaluation.
- Farm Biodiversity Action Plan (FBAP).
- Habitat Management Plans, eg. pond, orchard, scrub, woodland.

For further information please call your local FWAG office or contact us at:

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