



CYLCHLYTHYR GWANWYN 2023 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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Basic Payment Scheme / Single Application Form 2023

The 2023 SAF forms will be available ONLINE ONLY from 6th March. We will be offering face-to-face appointments again this year, however if you would prefer a Zoom or a telephone appointment, please let us know.

If there have been significant changes to your farming business since last year (eg. boundary changes, land given up /new land acquired, changes to business partners etc), we would recommend a face-to-face appointment at the CARA office.

Please phone us on **01570 471516** to make an appointment as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE that our last date of SAF appointments is strictly the **8th May 2023**. Please make every effort to keep your appointment, since cancellations cause pressure on the system.

Please have the following information available at your appointment:

Dairy cows, Bulls and Rep Heifers over 6 months old but under 24 months	
Dairy cows, Bulls and replacement Heifers 24 months old or over	
Beef cows, Bulls, and Rep Heifers over 6 months old but under 24 months	
Beef cows, Bulls and Replacement Heifers 24 months old or over	
Store/Finishing Cattle over 6 months old but under 24 months	
Store/Finishing Cattle 24 months old or over	
Sheep over 6 months	

Organic Land Schedule and Certificate

FAWL number

New Rented Land – Now requires copy of agreement or letter from landlord confirming rental

Cheque Book or Bank Card! –We kindly request that payment is made on the day of appointment by either cheque or card.

RPW Online – Ongoing Checking

All correspondence from Welsh Government is placed on Rural Payments Wales (RPW). Therefore, it is imperative that your RPW online account is checked regularly. There are examples every year where penalties have been applied because of farmers missing deadlines to respond to queries on their RPW a/c. This is particularly important if you have a Glastir Contract, or have applied for Small Grants Environment, Small Grant Efficiency or Nutrient Management Investment Scheme.

If you are not in a position to check yourselves, then we will offer the full service of checking the messages daily on your behalf as per last year, for an annual charge of £100+VAT.

For those of you checking yourselves, we will be happy to deal with queries once you have checked and read messages and informed us that action is needed. Letting us know you have received a text or email does not constitute checking. We will however not accept any liability for missing messages on those who opt to check the system themselves.

Entitlement Trading – Deadline 15/05/23

Please note that the deadline for transferring entitlements this year is the **15th May 2023**. If you have any spare entitlements that you would like to sell, or have a requirement to buy, please contact the office.

Latest Scheme News & Closing Dates:-

SMALL GRANT ENVIRONMENT – EOI – 22/5/23 to 30/6/23

SMALL GRANT YARD COVERINGS – EOI – 26/6/23 to 4/8/23

If you were awarded Contracts in 2022, you must submit your CLAIMS for completed works, inc. geo-tagged before & after photos via RPW online by **31st March 2023**

www.carawales.co.uk

Please note that the CARA website is regularly updated with latest Scheme news, and contains many useful links to relevant Scheme documents. Keep an eye out for a new look website coming soon!

Latest news is also shared on our Facebook page.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING SCHEME – 2025

Welsh Government is proposing that the new SFS scheme will be phased in from 2025 onwards, which will replace BPS and Glastir payments. The payments under the old schemes are likely to be phased out over a 5 year period.

It is proposed that there will be baseline payment for undertaking a range of universal actions, and then higher payment rates for undertaking optional actions.

All the Universal Actions will need to be met to qualify for the baseline payment. They include :-

- Measuring Farm Performance – Submit KPIs
- Have necessary bio-security measures in place
- Soil testing – chemical and physical
- Minimise pesticide use through IPM
- Complete an Animal Health Improvement Cycle
- Restore semi-natural peatland (if present)
- Have at least 10% tree cover on their farm – existing tree cover will count
- Manage hedgerows in line with hedgerow management cycle
- Protect soil from erosion – cover crops
- Manage at least 10% of the farm as habitat
- Conserve and retain water – 2 ponds - create new or manage existing ponds
- Maintain historic features on the farm
- Undertake 2 training courses per year

Farming Connect

A new Farming Connect programme will be available to farmers in Wales from April 2023 until March 2025. The scheme will focus on the transition to the new Sustainable Farming Scheme due to commence in 2025.

Next phase of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021

We are all aware that these new regulations were brought in last year, and have already started to see an impact on farms.

From 1st Jan 2023, the following requirements have been introduced.

- **Risk Maps**
- **Nitrogen Management Plan**
- **Ongoing records of fertiliser/manure applications**

Farm assurance inspectors are now requesting to see the risk maps and nitrogen management plans. If you need assistance with these, please contact the office. CARA Ltd now has 5 FACTS qualified advisors who will be available to support you with these new requirements.

The remaining measures will be phased in over the next 18 months:-

- **01/04/23** - Farm limit of total Nitrogen from livestock manure applied to a holding either by spreading or grazing animals must not exceed 170 kg / ha average. This essentially places a stocking rate on every farm.
- **01/08/24**- 5 months of slurry storage will be required
- 1st Closed Period for slurry spreading will be **15th October 2024 to 15th January 2025** on most farms, with light applications allowed from 15th January to 1st March
- FYM can no longer be stored on hardstanding/concrete without storage capacity for the rainfall from it. It will be permitted to store it in temporary field heaps, which will need to be moved every year.