

UTASS BRIEFING – 24th April 2026

Countryside Stewardship (CS) and Environmental Stewardship (HLS) Revenue Claim Forms 2026:

The annual revenue claim window is now open.

Submission deadline: Midnight 15 May 2026

Countryside Stewardship (CS) - Claims must be completed online through Rural Payments.

Environmental Stewardship (HLS) - Claim forms will be emailed or posted to agreement holders. Completed forms can be returned to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) by email or post. If returning by post, please ensure this is done by tracked or recorded service. If returning by email, please ensure you keep a copy of the submission receipt.

If you have an HLS agreement and **do not receive your claim form by the end of April**, please contact the RPA on 03000 200 301. **Late claims will incur penalties.**

SFI 2026 Update:

The SFI 2026 scheme will open in two application windows.

Window 1 – Expected to open June 2026: This is for small farms up to 50 hectares and for those farms without an existing environmental scheme in place.

Window 2 – Expected September 2026: This will open to ALL farms.

Further information about SFI 2026 can be found on the **DEFRA Farming Blog:** [SFI26: details, definitions and what to expect – The Farming Blog](#)

Electronic ID for Cattle:

Defra have plans in place over the next 2 years to improve Cattle identification and traceability in England.

From Summer 2026, Defra will roll-out changes to cattle identification, registration and reporting that will improve the government's ability to respond effectively to disease.

New requirements will see **Electric ID (EID) mandatory for all new-born calves from 2027**, using low frequency (LF) technology. This means animals with eID eartags are able to be scanned when animals are moved, rather than a visual read and manual input of the tag number.

UTASS BRIEFING – 24th April 2026

Tag manufacturers are **currently advising customers to only order sufficient standard tags for 2026-born calves**. After 1st January 2027, calves will need to be tagged with EID tags.

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) 2026:

The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) provides grants to help farmers invest in equipment that improves productivity, environmental performance, and animal welfare.

The application window closes on Monday 28th April 2026.

The scheme provides support across three targeted themes:

- 1. Productivity:** Funding for equipment that improves farm efficiency and reduces labour requirements. <https://ow.ly/8K0R50YmqIZ>
- 2. Slurry Management:** Support for equipment that improves slurry storage, handling and environmental protection. <https://ow.ly/XeBb50Ymw3T>
- 3. Animal Health & Welfare:** Funding for equipment that improves livestock health and welfare standards. <https://ow.ly/EYEC50YmqJn>

Grant Value:

- Minimum: £1,000
- Maximum: £25,000 per application

Applicants may apply to more than one theme; however, the scheme is competitive and **funding is not guaranteed**.

Capital Grants Scheme – July 2026:

The Capital Grant Scheme is expected to open for applications in July 2026. Scheme guidance and eligibility rules will be published prior to the application window opening, and once we have received these, we will circulate the information to our members.

Making Tax Digital (MTD):

From April 2026, Making Tax Digital (MTD) will apply to self-employed individuals and landlords whose combined gross income from self-employment and property exceeds £50,000. If you haven't already looked into this, we strongly advise contacting your accountant to ensure you're prepared.

UTASS BRIEFING – 24th April 2026

For any further advice or assistance, please contact the UTASS Farm Support Team on 01833 641010, or email info@utass.org