



## The Basic Payment Scheme in Wales – An Introduction

### Introduction

The Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) is the Welsh Government's replacement for the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). It is the main source of direct farm support payments in Wales. If you are farming in Wales you need to know about the BPS. We are setting out the main points here.

### Headlines

- There will **not** be a Paper Single Application Forms (SAF) for 2016
- You can use Rural Payments Wales (RPW) Online to apply for and manage your BPS payments. You need an activation code to register with RPW Online, if you do not have one you can call the Customer Care Centre 0300 062 5004
- The annual application deadline is midnight on 15 May. (There may be penalties for late claims).
- You need to be an active farmer to apply
- Minimum 5 hectares of eligible land to claim

### Eligibility

You need to be an active farmer to apply for and claim BPS in Wales. If you are also involved in non-agricultural business activities you may be required to provide additional information to prove you are an active farmer.

For the detail please see:

2015 Single Application Rules Booklet available online [here](#)

### Payments

Following a consultation exercise the Welsh Government has decided to implement a flat rate payment across Wales plus a Redistributive 'top-up'.

- A common flat rate payment for all farmers is to be achieved by 2019, with payments for individual farms adjusted from historical (pre-2015) payments in equal steps each year to 2019.
- A redistributive 'top-up' payment will increase the payment on the first 54 hectares of each individual claim. This change should favour smaller producers.

**Dual Use** – Dual use of land is not available in Wales - only one person or business can make claims on one parcel of land. For example the same name must claim BPS and Glastir on any parcel of land.



**Common Grazing** – You can use common land grazing rights to support your BPS claim if you have a legal right to graze stock on the common land.

## Entitlements

- To claim BPS you must have ‘entitlements’
- Farmers must use entitlements once every two years and they cannot be rotated around different land parcels.
- Entitlements can be traded but in a limited time window
- Some farmers (particularly new entrants and young farmers) may be eligible for entitlements from the National Reserve

## Obligations

**Cross-compliance** – You are responsible for ensuring that you comply with cross-compliance requirements and standards if you are claiming CAP payments such as BPS. Full details of the Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and the standards for Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) can be found [here](#).

There have been recent changes to SMR 8 – sheep and goat identification, GAEC Soil and Carbon Stock and SMR 4 Food and Feed law.

**Greening** – this is the main change from the Single Payment Scheme. Farmers will have to comply with new Greening measures to qualify for 30% of the BPS payment.

- **Organic land is ‘green by default’.**
- Mixed organic / non-organic holdings will have to meet greening requirements on their non-organic land.
- On non-organic land, greening rules will apply on high nature value permanent grassland and holdings with at least 10 ha of eligible arable land.

## Extras

**Young farmers** - (under 41 during 2015), can apply for a top-up payment.

**Penalties** can be levied for false claims, late applications or not following the cross compliance rules.

## Contact

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