

Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings

Q&A

1. Is there a turnover limit when you apply for this grant?

Yes, the maximum turnover of a business to be eligible for Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings is £1.0m

2. Do I need to understand whether I am located in a priority water quality or quantity area before applying?

No. You do not have to be in a priority water quality or quantity area to be eligible to apply.

3. Does the farmyard manure (FYM) store require an impermeable base to be eligible?

Yes, to be eligible the store has to be an existing store with a floor that is impenetrable to water e.g. concrete.

4. Are reception pits eligible?

Yes. Reception pits are eligible, these would be considered as existing slurry stores.

5. What if the slurry/runoff is not going to the slurry system currently, can you still apply?

Yes, providing the slurry from the roofed area can be diverted to an existing slurry store and evidenced through geo-tagged photographs.

6. If I have a concrete FYM store, but no slurry pit, can I roof the FYM store and not need a slurry pit?

Yes. On completion, run-off from manure store must be diverted to an existing slurry store or reception pit. If no slurry store or reception pit is currently available, or its location means that diverting run-off to the store is not possible, the structure will need to contain all effluent within the facility. This will need to be evidenced via geo-tagged photographs. If the new roof or changes to the structure required to contain all effluent will result in substantial enlargement or reconstruction of the store, you must notify Natural Resource Wales (NRW) 14 days before the new, substantially enlarged or reconstructed store is brought into use.

<https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/farming/good-farming-practice/?lang=en>

7. Does the FYM store need to have walls and, if so, what type and does the grant support this cost?

On completion, the FYM store will need to contain all effluent within the facility, this will require walls to contain the effluent or a system that collects and diverts any runoff to an existing slurry store. The grant only supports the roofing, not sidewalls or cladding.

8. Are sheep handling and feeding areas eligible?

Yes, subject to the flooring being impermeable to water and the slurry from the area being diverted to an existing slurry store.

9. Would big bale storage on a concrete pad qualify when an effluent tank is available to collect the water from the concrete pad?

No, areas for storing silage bales are not eligible

10. How do you prove that the slurry is going to the slurry store?

This has to be provided through geo-tagged photographs. (A series of photographs might be required)

11. Is the Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) costs covered by the grant?

SuDS approval is a regulatory requirement. As such, the costs of preparing an application for SuDS approval is not supported through the grant.

12. Would a roof over a silage pit erected pre 1991 be eligible?

Yes, however applicants will need to inform NRW of any changes to the structural integrity of the walls or floor which could have an impact on the existing store's current SSAFO exempt construction.

13. Where can I get further information on SSAFO?

Information is available at:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2017-11/storing-silage-and-slurry.pdf>

14. I have a cattle and sheep handling system alongside my manure/slurry store which the runoff all goes into the slurry store, can this be covered as well as the slurry store?

Yes, as long as all slurry produced from these areas enter the slurry store. The individual areas will require separate applications at the expression of interest (EOI) stage.

15. Can you make an application prior to obtaining planning?

Yes. However, we would strongly urge you to start both the planning and SuDS processes as soon as possible. You can do this before submitting an

expression of interest without it affecting your eligibility to apply to the scheme.

16. Do you have to get quotes for work to go in with application?

We recommend you get quotes for the work you wish to undertake, however, they are not compulsory for the purpose of applying. Only evidence of invoiced costs and 'after' geo-tagged photographs of the finished work are required to make a claim.

17. As the roof would be grant funded, are there any restrictions for future uses of the roof, specifically installing solar panels?

The roof must be used for its intended purpose specified in the scheme rules for a minimum period of five years from the date the claim is paid. However, providing the roof can still perform the function for which it was supported, you may install solar panels before the five-year period has ended.

18. If a farmer has been successful in gaining a Sustainable Production Grant contract will they be eligible for the Farm Business Grant - Yard Coverings?

Yes. This is explained on page 2 of the Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings rules and guidance.

19. Can you cover outdoor woodchip corrals?

No, livestock housing is not eligible.

20. Can you place a cover over a slurry pit, rather than a roof?

No. The roof coverings have been detailed and costed to a specification which does not match that for a slurry store cover.

21. We currently don't have any slurry collection system. We have a small yard and only produce FYM. Do you think there will be a grant for slurry holding in the future?

Yes. Another round of the Sustainable Production Grant is planned to run an expression of interest from 1 February to 12 March 2021.

22. If you self-feed silage in an area that is both a silage clamp and a livestock feeding area, what does it count as?

The majority of the slurry produced from this area will be due to the feeding activity, the areas would be classed as livestock feeding area. Evidence will need to be provided through geo-tagged photographs of the area being used for livestock feeding.

23. Are we able to make a claim if we have the purlins or steels erected to carry a roof but have been unable to afford to finalise sheeting?

No. The Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings can only pay claims which evidence purchase of the complete roofing materials after the contract has been accepted.

24. Can you claim for a covered slurry store and covered feeding area in the same claim?

Yes, but the areas will need to be requested as separate items when the EOI and the subsequent claim is submitted.

25. Do you have to photograph the route of the slurry to the store or if it is moved by using a front end loader?

You will need to provide evidence that all the slurry from the covered area is diverted to an existing store. We will need evidence of the existing slurry store.

26. If I have a cattle yard that cannot be totally roofed do I have to roof 100% of the yard to obtain the grant?

No. A proportion of the yard can be roofed as long as that area meets the requirements of the scheme.

27. What's the definition of a livestock feeding area? Does it have to be an area that is used for feeding for a certain number of days per year?

The livestock feeding area will be an area used during the winter months to feed livestock.

28. Can you do two FYM store covers within the same grant application?

Yes. Providing the two areas are separated as part of the EOI application and claim and both meet the scheme criteria. Separate geo-tagged photographs will be required.

29. What is the budget for this application window?

The budget available for the first Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings window is £1.5m.

30. Will there be any further rounds?

The second application window will open on 18 May 2021 for EOIs received by 25 June 2021. A £2.0m budget is allocated for the second round.

31. What is the payment/grant rate?

The maximum grant award is £12,000 with the minimum being £3,000. The grant rate is a maximum of 40% contribution towards standard costed capital equipment. The actual payment rate will be £36 per square metre of roofing installed, up to the maximum £12,000.

32. Can we just apply for secondary items? E.g. rainwater harvesting systems.

The main programme objective is to cover existing yards. Secondary items will only be supported if a primary (yard covering) item has been selected.

33. Are the secondary items included in the £12,000 maximum grant?

Yes. The secondary items are included in the calculation of the eligible grant value limits.

34. Can you purchase a second hand shed frame to cover a slurry pit?

No. Second hand items are not eligible for Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings grant support.

35. Can the work be completed by the farmer?

Yes, farmers are able to complete the capital work, however they must ensure that all the requirements and standards identified in the Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings guidance are met.

All buildings should meet BS 5502 part 22:2013. For any structures that are not CE marked, the applicant will need to demonstrate compliance to BS 5502 part 22:2013 through the provision of structural calculations from suitably qualified engineers.

36. What are geo-tagged photographs?

A geo-tagged photograph includes location, date and time within the photograph data. Most mobile phones with an internet connection and a camera will record GPS coordinates automatically. They also record the date and time the photograph was taken.

The time and location data of your uploaded after photographs will be cross referenced against your Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings contract. This will allow verification of your claim and make sure the capital works have been completed as agreed and within the contract period.

Full guidance on submitting geo-tagged photographs are available through:
<https://gov.wales/farm-business-grant-yard-coverings-geotagged-photo-guidance>

37. Do geo-tagged photos have to be taken after the contract is accepted?

Geo-tagged photographs are required at both the EOI and claim stage.

38. Can existing roofs that need repair be supported?

No, all roof coverings for buildings must be new and used to cover previously uncovered areas. Replacements for existing roof structures are ineligible costs.

39. If the slurry storage holds less than four months' volume of slurry, does that disqualify the slurry store from being eligible?

No, this store would be eligible for support. You do not have to be SSAFO compliant to apply for structures which are not connected to a slurry or silage store. If the new roof will attach to or result in substantial enlargement or reconstruction of the store, you must notify NRW 14 days before the new, substantially enlarged or reconstructed store is brought into use.

<https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/farming/good-farming-practice/?lang=en>

40. What if the yard is bigger than the square metre available on the grant?

It is the individual applicant's decision as to whether to apply for the Farm Business Grant - Yard Coverings support. However, if you do decide to apply for a grant over an area which exceeds the maximum £12,000, you will only be paid up to the maximum £12,000.

41. Because shed/roofing makers and erectors are so busy what happens if I couldn't get anybody to make/erect the shed within one year.

Where you believe you are likely to encounter any issues which may affect your ability to complete the work and claim by the published deadline, you are advised to inform RPW as soon as possible. Please give as detailed an explanation as you can. The information you provide will be given consideration on its merits on a case by case basis.

42. How can we find further info on water quality maps for scoring?

The priority water quality and quantity objective maps are the same as those used for Glastir Advanced. The FBG – Yard Coverings scheme literature has been updated with a link to them on page 14. Here is the link:

<https://gov.wales/glastir-advanced-score-map>

There are two ways to operate these maps. Either hover your cursor near the bottom of the page and a tool bar appears – select the pdf icon and another tool bar should appear on the left of the screen. Select the layers option. We suggest you expand all the layers and turn off all but the layer for the relevant water quality and quantity layers in the area you wish to know about.

If hovering the cursor does not work, then go to 'file' > 'save as' > select pdf from the file type and 'save'. Once you open the saved version from the location you saved it to, the tool bar will be on the left side of the page and you can operate the same as explained above.