

LIV2 Return Livestock to a Rotation

Why is this good for water quality?

The aim

Livestock, particularly through grazing and manure, have the potential to significantly improve soil health by increasing organic matter, improving soil structure, and enhancing nutrient cycling. They also contribute to aeration and reduce the need for synthetic fertilisers which can runoff or leach into water sources. In rotational grazing systems, livestock are moved frequently, preventing overgrazing and allowing for soil recovery, which can reduce compaction, soil erosion and runoff.

Why is this good for my farm?

The natural fertilisation provided by livestock reduces the need for synthetic fertilisers, reducing costs for farmers. Grazing can also help build soil organic matter, remove diseased plants, control weeds, stimulate root growth and improve soil health further reducing reliance on chemical treatments.

LIV2 Return Livestock to a Rotation

Payment Rate: 50% of cost, up to £5,000

Specification

- This option facilitates the introduction of livestock to a previously animal-free arable area.
- The introduction of livestock to arable rotations needs to reduce the planned pesticide applications of the crop, this should be supported by an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM).
- The applicant should evidence the required infrastructure to re-introduce grazing livestock into an arable rotation
- Rotational grazing will achieve the best outcomes for this option.
- The livestock must be introduced to achieve a stated aim and grazed on the specified area until the aim has been fulfilled.
- The arable area must have been free from livestock for 5 years.
- The introduction of livestock should not cause poaching or compaction.
- Nutrient management plans (NMP) should be in place to account for nutrients introduced by animals.
- Soil samples before animal introduction including OM% should be taken.
- Consider stacking with soil heath or structure options
- Applicants are expected to complete the action in a way that could be reasonably expected to achieve the actions aim.
- 5-year (2025-2030) agreement, rotational option that can be moved each year

Evidence to apply

- Mapping to show area to be grazed
- The stated aim of the livestock introduction from the farm
- Previous cropping records
- Quotes for work required
- IPM plan to show intention to reduce chemical use
- Soil sample results

Evidence to claim

- Images to show animals grazing arable crops
- After images of infrastructure, such as fencing
- Invoices for costs
- NMP