

Rural Support Scheme 2026 - GUIDANCE

Funding has been allocated for the Rural Support Scheme (RSS) in 2026 with the aim of underpinning the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the sector.

Jersey's rural businesses need support if they are to survive to contribute to the economy, in terms of:

- maintaining employment and providing employment opportunities in the future
- providing a baseline level of food security
- continuing stewardship of Jersey's countryside and natural resources
- providing local produce for consumption locally and for export
- contributing to the wider health of the economy

Government support is intended to replicate the financial support available in neighbouring jurisdictions as it is evident that failure to provide such assistance will ultimately result in the failure of the sector, which will be unable to remain competitive in the marketplace.

The [Economic Framework for the Rural Environment](#) approved in 2022 highlighted a new 'value system' for farming and the rural economy and the determination to better recognise and directly reward the concept of 'public money for public goods'.

To this end, the RSS has been updated for 2026 with funding rewarding local businesses using a points based 'rural credit' system, which is used to calculate support payments.

In 2026 the RSS will continue to be delivered in four tiers:

Tier 1 rewards accreditation under independently audited quality schemes and integrated farm management plans.

Tier 2 recognises decoupled production and provides credits for livestock headage and land use and for people who work in the rural economy.

Tier 3 comprises a range of support measures in recognition of economic, environmental and social attainments which include rural initiatives, local produce recognition and landscape (environmental) management.

Tier 4 provides grant support for projects undertaken by each enterprise, with a maximum available fund calculated using the amount of 'credits' awarded under Tiers 1 to 3 of the scheme.

The **RSS26** will be open for applications from 12th January 2026 until 11th September 2026, and as a result credits will be awarded to each farm business for activities undertaken in 2025.

How do I qualify for the Rural Support Scheme 2026?

To qualify for the Rural Support Scheme 2026 you must be a registered as either:

- I. a *bona fide* agriculturalist i.e. someone who is employed in land dependent primary production, obtaining income from agriculture or horticulture which meets a target level of economic activity of £40,000 per annum; or
- II. a smallholder (part time or small-scale agriculturalist) i.e. a person actively participating in land dependent primary production which meets a reduced level of economic activity as compared with a bona fide agriculturalist (currently £5,000 total gross margin per annum).

Further information can be found below:

[How agricultural land is controlled \(gov.je\)](#)

Participation in either LEAF Marque and /or Organic Standards are required to access the RSS.

If you think you may fall under one of the above categories but are not officially registered, please email ruraleconomy@gov.je

Application timeline and dates for submission

Complete and return the following:

1. RSS Agricultural Return
2. Land Declaration Spreadsheet for 2025 / 2026
3. Accounts or Financial Declaration (signed by your accountant) for 2025

By no later than 11th September 2026.

2026 payments are calculated on 2025 data.

**Rural Economy
Government of Jersey
Union Street
St. Helier
JE2 3DN**

Rural Support Scheme Credit Matrix 2026

RSS Tier 1

LEAF MARQUE		
Choose ONE of the following which applies:	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
LEAF Member	Evidence of payment to be a member of LEAF in 2025/6	80
LEAF Sustainable Farming Review (SFR)	Evidence the business has completed the 2025/6 LEAF Sustainable Farming Review (the self-assessment tool provided online by LEAF)	160
LEAF Marque Certified	Evidence of LEAF Marque certification following an independent audit	320
LEAF Marque Demonstration Farm	Evidence the enterprise is certified by LEAF as a LEAF Marque Demonstration Farm	360



LEAF Marque

[LEAF Marque | LEAF \(Linking Environment and Farming\)](#)

ORGANIC STATUS

Choose ONE of the following which applies:	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
Member of Organic Association	Evidence of membership of an organic association in 2025/6.	80
Organic 'In Conversion'	Evidence of land 'in conversion' to organic status in 2025/6.	160
Organic Certification	Evidence of organic certification following an independent audit.	320

Organic Certification



[Soil Association](#)



[Organic Certification, News, Classified ads, Useful information | OF&G](#)



[BDA Certification | Food to nourish people and the planet.](#)

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Choose ANY of the following which apply:	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
 BRG Global Standard	Evidence of certification	300
 Global GAP	Evidence of certification	120
Red Tractor	Evidence of certification	120
SALSA	Evidence of certification	120
KIWA	Evidence of certification	120
British Horse Society	Evidence of certification	120

Red Tractor

[Homepage - Red Tractor Licensees](#)



SALSA

[SALSA - Food & Drink Production Standard](#)



KIWA

[Certification by Kiwa](#)



GLOBALG.A.P.

Global GAP

[GLOBALG.A.P. | Smart farm assurance solutions](#)



BHS

[British Horse Society: Equestrian Charity & Membership | The British Horse Society](#)



BRG GROBAL

[BRCGS Food Safety Global Standard](#)

INTEGRATED FARM MANAGEMENT PLANS

	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
Choose ANY of the following which apply:	Indicate which plans are in place on the Ag Return – copies of plans not required unless requested	
Animal Health Plan	Tier 2 livestock credits conditional on an animal health plan	40
Dairy Welfare (Vet Scheme)	For dairy herds only	40
Carbon Nett Zero Plan	A written plan to achieve carbon nett zero	40
Carbon Nett Zero Recording	Declare use of a carbon measurement tool	40
Conservation & Landscape Plan	Tier 3 conservation crop and buffer strip credits conditional on a conservation and landscape plan	40
Energy Audit & Plan	To include an assessment of energy use as well as a plan to manage energy consumption	40
Health and Safety Plan	Tier 2 credits for workers conditional on Health and Safety Plan	40
Nutrient Management Plan		40
Soil Management Plan	Tier 3 Regen credits and cover crop credits conditional on a soil management plan	40
Waste Management Plan	Tier 3 Waste credits conditional on a waste management plan	40
Water Management Plan	Tier 3 Wildlife Pond credits conditional on a water management plan	40
Woodland Management Plan		40

RSS Tier 2

PRIMARY LAND USE		
	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
Credits per vergee for primary land user	Complete the land declaration spreadsheet with each land parcel number and area of crops grown / land use in 2025. New businesses may include planned 2026 crops / land use.	
Outdoor Crop (v)	Any primary outdoor crop (including grassland) where the land can be cultivated	2.5
Glasshouse Crop (v)	Any primary crop produced in a glasshouse	8
Polytunnel Crop (v)	Any primary crop produced in a polytunnel	4
Land (other) (v)	Any other land area under farm management that cannot be cultivated e.g. meadows; woodland; scrubland and coastal areas	0.25

LIVESTOCK

Notes / Information Required		
Credits per head of livestock in 2025.	Complete Ag Return with maximum livestock numbers on the holding for 2025	CREDITS
Beef cattle	Data provided by RJA & HS	7
Dairy cattle	Data provided by RJA & HS	16
Goats	Maximum number of goats at any time in 2025	3
Pigs	Total breeding sows and finished pigs in 2025	4
Poultry	Maximum flock size at any time in 2025	0.3
Sheep	Maximum flock size at any time in 2025	2
Wagyu cross cattle	Data provided by RJA & HS	9

PEOPLE P

Notes / Information Required		
Credits for each of the following:	Social security number to be provided for each worker. Certificates required upon request.	CREDITS
FTE per week	Credits for business owners and employees for each full week worked in 2025 (including holiday allowances). Part-time workers converted to a 'Full Time Equivalent' based on 40 hours/week.	2
Work Permit	For any worker on an official work permit in 2025	12
Apprentice	For any worker on a recognised apprenticeship programme in 2025	40
Young Person	For any owner or director of the business who was under the age of 40 years as at 01/01/25	75
BASIS	Credits for any BASIS qualified worker	10
FACTS	Credits for any FACTS qualified worker	10
NRoSo	Credits for NRoSo listing	7.5
PA Standard	Per worker for any official Pesticide Application qualification; evidence of qualification	7.5
Tractor	Per worker for certified training for tractor driving	5
Telehandler	Per worker for certified training for telehandler driving	5
Forklift	Per worker for certified training for forklift driving	5
Food Hygiene Level 2	Per worker for Level 2 Food Hygiene training	5
First Aid	Per worker for an official First Aid qualification	5

RSS Tier 3

RURAL INITIATIVES

Credits in the following categories:	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
Eat Safe Jersey (per star)	Per star awarded under the Eat Safe scheme	2
Genuine Jersey Membership	A current membership of Genuine Jersey	25
Great Taste Award (per star)	Per star, awarded by 'Great Taste' in last 3 years	10
Cattle Show Headage	For each animal entered into the RJA & HS shows in 2025; data provided by RJA & HS	3
Farm Open Day	Credits when the farm is open for hosted 'non-revenue' events of more than 10 people or official visits at the request of Government or ALBs.	18
Market Participation	Attendance at a market organised by Farm Jersey (Advance notice for credits available in 2027)	2
Maintained Public Path (m)	Payment per m of managed public access path managed by the holding	0.2

LOCAL MARKET INCENTIVES

Choose ONE of the following for each land parcel if applicable:	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
Outdoor Crop for Human Consumption (Food) (v)	Food crop grown as the primary crop for local consumers (other than market garden areas)	5
Market Garden Area (v)	Production area used for market gardening up to 5 vergées, with at least 5 different crops per vergee	35
Non-food Crop (v)	Any non-food crop grown for the local market (other than animal forage crops)	3
Glasshouse Food Crop (v)	Primary food crop for local consumers grown under glass	140
Polytunnel Food Crop (v)	Primary food crop for local consumers grown in polytunnels	70
Primary Forage Crop (v)	A primary crop for animal forage grown for local consumption (not a second crop)	1
2nd Crop for Human Consumption (Food) (v)	Any second food crop grown for local consumers, indoor or outdoor	3.5

ENVIRONMENT INCENTIVES

	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
Managed hedgerow (v)	Credits per vergee for hedgerow management	0.76
Wildlife pond (each)	Credit for each wildlife pond (needs a water management plan)	10
Waste Recycling (t)	Credits for oil, plastic and packaging waste only – requires a waste management plan and evidence of recycling.	4

ORGANIC INCENTIVES

Choose ONE of the following for any organic land parcel:	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
Organic Grassland / Orchard (v)	For 'improved' farmland which can be cultivated and the primary crop for the year is grass or an orchard	4
Organic Cereal Crop (v)	Primary crop for the year is an organic cereal.	5
Organic Vegetable Crop (v)	Primary crop for the year is an organic vegetable.	6
Organic Rough Grazing (v)	Organic land which cannot be cultivated e.g. meadows, coastal areas, which are grazed	0.5

LAND MANAGEMENT – PRIMARY LAND USE

Choose ONE of the following for each land parcel if applicable:	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
Conservation Crop (v)	For any primary crop sown/planted in 2025 with the sole purpose of enhancing the environment and the land has no commercial income value (e.g. bird seed mix). Excludes any areas used for grazing and areas seeded prior to 01/01/25	6
Regenerative Practice (v)	Only for land areas which may be cultivated (not meadows, coastal, woodland etc.); credits for areas farmed with the use of Min Till equipment or for grassland crops which have not been ploughed / deep cultivated in 2025.	2
Buffer Strip (v)	Only for land areas which may be cultivated (not meadows, coastal, woodland etc.); Strips of land up to a maximum width of 6m which are left uncultivated in order to protect a defined geographic feature (e.g. a water course). The land to have no commercial income. Requires identification on a Conservation and Landscape Plan.	18

LAND MANAGEMENT – SECOND CROPS

Choose ONE of the following for each land parcel if applicable:	Notes / Information Required	CREDITS
Cover Crop Bio Control (v)	Where the purpose of the secondary crop is to manage a pest or disease	3
Cover Crop Biodiversity (v)	Where the purpose of the secondary crop is to enhance biodiversity e.g. pollinator mixes; bird seed crops	4
Cover Crop Soil (v)	Any other cover crop which follows a primary crop for the benefit of the soil. Not a crop which is harvested and removed from the land, but may be a crop used as part of a grazing system.	1.25

RSS Tier 4

A grant award for every business offering up to 80% of the cost of a project which aims to improve productivity or improve environmental performance of a qualifying enterprise.

Rural Support Scheme Tier 4 Project Grant

The Rural Support Scheme Project Grant is open to all RSS applicants.

The Scheme will be run along similar lines as 2025.

You will receive an offer for a project grant with a value cap based on a formula using all acquired farm credits, up to maximum of 80% of the project value.

- For Bona Fide Agricultural holdings (where turnover exceeds £40,000 per year), the RIS project grant CAP is calculated at £10,000 plus £2.00 per rural credit.
- For Smallholders (turnover between £5,000 and £40,000), the project grant CAP is calculated at (sales turnover x 0.25) plus £2.00 per rural credit. Turnover figure is for all sales and excludes grants receivable from the RSS or any other grant funding).

You will be notified of your project 'CAP' as soon as your RSS credits are awarded – we will notify you in writing (email or hard copy) and supply a Project Proposal Form.

Complete and return the proposal form – if your project is acceptable you will receive an offer letter and application form.

Expenditure on items must take place within 2026.

You may apply for more than one project.

Payments will be made on receipt of a completed claim form with evidence of completion of the project or project invoices.

Projects must have a minimum value of £1,000.

There is no maximum value for a project but grant funding towards the project is limited to the calculated 'cap' for your enterprise.

Grant funding can be no more than 80% of the value of the project.

Applications for 2026 projects must be made no later than 1st October 2026, the project must be delivered before the end of 2026.

Further information – Primary Land User

Note that *the primary user is determined by the Economy Department*.

You are the primary land user if:-

- i. **You own/rent and occupy the field and use it continuously for the whole year; or**
- ii. **You had use of the field on the 1st January 2025, and occupied/farmed the land for the first period of the year although the field rental finished mid-way through the year; or**
- iii. **You occupy the land and carry out the main farming activity on the land for 12 months or less, even when the official tenant of the field is another person / business**

*the main farming activity is classed as the most significant commercial operation (crop cycle) to be carried out on the land for the year (factoring input and output values). Please ask the Rural Economy team if you require advice on this.

Credits for land-based activity are non-transferable.

The aim of this land-based credit system is to reward the enterprise carrying out the main farming activity on each field in any given year, not to reward 'land agents' or those sub-letting land but not using it for their own purposes.

Please complete and return the Land Declaration Spreadsheet with relevant crop details and primary land use category for each field used in 2025.