

## What happens next?



When your application is received it will be assessed and prioritised against set criteria for the Scheme. We will write to inform you whether your application has been successful or not.

If your application is successful, a member of Countryside Management Branch will contact you to make an appointment to carry out a farm audit. The audit consists of three parts:

1. An overview of the Scheme rules;
2. A farm nutrient and waste management advisory visit and assessment; and
3. Land classification.

Following successful completion of the audit, we will write to you to tell you when your Scheme should commence. This date is called your “start date” and you should not commence any scheme work before this date. A scheme agreement normally lasts for seven years from this date.

## Frequently asked questions



### I am in an existing agri-environment scheme, can I enter into this scheme?

Yes. However, in the event of too many applications for the scheme, applications may have to be prioritised. This may mean that existing scheme holders will have a lower priority than applicants with designated sites.

### Will participation in the Countryside Management Scheme affect my Single Farm Payment?

It is generally possible to claim Single Farm Payment and Countryside Management Scheme payment on the same area of land.

However, you should consult with us regarding the latest advice on SFP and agri-environment, and the likely affect on your farm business.

### How do I claim for payment?

In all cases, Countryside Management Scheme participants must complete an IACS Single Application Form to claim the annual Scheme payment.

### Can I enter only part of my farm into the Countryside Management Scheme?

No. The Countryside Management Scheme is a “whole” farm scheme. All owned eligible land which is not leased out and is held by the farm business must be entered into the Scheme.

## Where can I find out more?



**If you would like to find out more, please contact us:**

**Tel:** 0845 3044 509

**Website:** [www.rdpni.info](http://www.rdpni.info)

**Email:** [rdp@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:rdp@dardni.gov.uk)

**Write to us at:** Rural Development Programme, Room 141, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB

**or call in to your local DARD office.**

