

# BUSINESS UPDATE: NO BPS GREENING REQUIREMENT FROM 2021

Information correct as at 12:00pm on 14.08.2020

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- Government has recently announced that it is scrapping the greening requirement from next year (2021)
- This includes the requirement to both grow 3 crops and maintain an ecological focus area.
- Farmers can still be rewarded for enhancing the environment of their holdings via the existing Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Historically a key requirement for being able to claim the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) has been 'greening'. This has meant most farmers claiming BPS have needed to maintain at least 5% of their land as an ecological focus area (such as buffer strips and cover crops) if they have more than 15ha of arable land and follow strict management rules on permanent grassland.

Also, many will have needed to grow at least three different arable crops if they have more than 30ha of arable land – the so-called “three crop rule”.

However, in an attempt to simplify the BPS and reduce the bureaucracy surrounding it as we begin the move towards the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) (see Kite Covid-19 update 17-07-20), the requirement for greening has been scrapped from 2021 onwards.

These changes will not affect the overall payment farmers receive as the money will instead be added back onto the entitlements under the BPS.

The greening measures are thought to have delivered little in the way of environmental benefit. The hope is that the new ELMS will deliver a lot more in this respect.

Farmers can still be rewarded for maintaining or enhancing the environmental currency of their holding through the existing Countryside Stewardship Schemes. These schemes will remain open until the new ELMS is rolled out in 2024.

Full details of the changes can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-cut-red-tape-for-farmers-as-they-plan-for-2021>

If you have any questions regarding the scrapping of the greening measures, or how the phasing out of the BPS altogether or how the replacement ELM scheme will affect your business, then do speak to your consultant.

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For further discussion or to help with any questions that you may have, please contact Consultant Support on [consultantsupport@kiteconsulting.com](mailto:consultantsupport@kiteconsulting.com) or 01902 851007 / 07542 403225