

Farming Newsletter



WELCOME!



Welcome to the July 2025 edition of the Mersey Rivers Trust farming newsletter!

Read on to find out more about farming news and what's on offer this month, you can also keep up to date with our [Farming Hub](#) online.

CAPITAL GRANTS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

Capital grants aim to provide £150 million of funding to farmers, land managers and rural businesses for practical environmental improvements across England.

These improvements can include planting hedgerows, managing boundaries, improving water and air quality, restoring habitats, and introducing natural flood management measures.

As of the 29th of July just over 75% of the available funding has now been allocated. Once the remaining budget is allocated applications will close. So get your applications in! A new round of funding is expected to open in 2026 if you are not successful in securing funding in this round.

For more information on how to apply click [here](#).

Defra regularly updates their [Farming Blog](#). To subscribe to the blog and ensure that you receive their latest farming updates click [here](#).



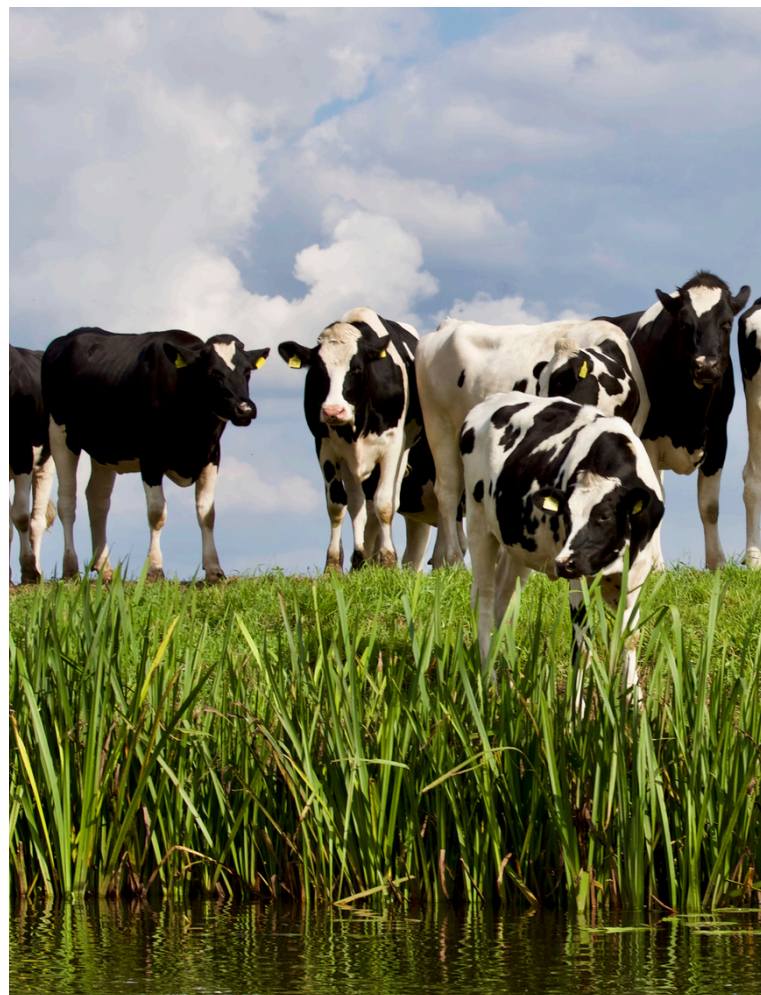


BLUE TONGUE VIRUS UPDATE

The total number of BTV-3 cases in Great Britain for the 2025 to 2026 vector season is 7. All cases have been in England. The risk of transmission via infected midges is now considered to be very high in England and most of Great Britain.

During July, 4 cases of Blue tongue were confirmed across Wiltshire, Cumbria, Oxfordshire and Norfolk.

As of 1 July 2025 the restricted zone for bluetongue has been extended to cover all of England. You can move animals within England without a specific bluetongue licence or pre-movement testing. For more information on the current blue tongue virus situation click [here](#).



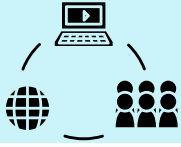
MERSEY RIVERS TRUST SMALL GRANTS SCHEME 25/26

For farmers in the River Bollin Catchment we have small grants of up to £5,500 available to help with capital works on farms to reduce water pollution.

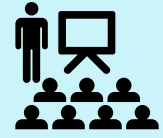
We can fund capital works including concrete, guttering, fencing, and sward lifting and signpost you to further advice and funding.

To register interest and discuss your chances of securing funding for capital grant items in 2025/2026.

Email us at justine@merseyrivers.org or call Justine on 07952 056286.



EVENTS



OPPORTUNITIES AND PRACTICALITIES OF ORGANIC BEEF SYSTEMS

The Soil Association are hosting an online session to discuss the practical considerations for organic cattle and opportunities to support organic beef production.

Learn from an organic farmer's experiences and experts on how standards translate to on farm practice, opportunities to maximise forage production and tips for the organic market.

To register for this event click [here](#).

THURSDAY 7TH AUGUST
12PM - 1.30PM, ONLINE



SOW A SEED OF HOPE SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Do you work in farming or agriculture?
Want to know how to support someone
with thoughts of suicide?

Papyrus are hosting Suicide Prevention
Training in the North West for rural
communities.

For more information and to book a place on
this training click [here](#).

WENESDAY 15TH OCTOBER
1PM - 4:30PM, ONLINE

