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NFU ELMS Net Zero Test & Trial

The NFU's proposal for an England-wide ELMS Test and Trial (T&T) on net zero has been approved by Defra. The T&T will explore how farmers contribute to the 25 Year Environment Plan goals by working towards the NFU's net zero ambition. The focus on net zero means that the T&T will seek to influence ELMS to include:

- A broad range of activities including productivity measures
- Farmer-friendly land management plans
- Appropriate levels of advice and guidance

The project will run through to Q3 2021, finishing in time to incorporate outcomes into full ELMS by 2024.

1. T&T Objectives

i. *Understand if greenhouse gas (GHG) footprinting is a useful tool to support the net zero transition*

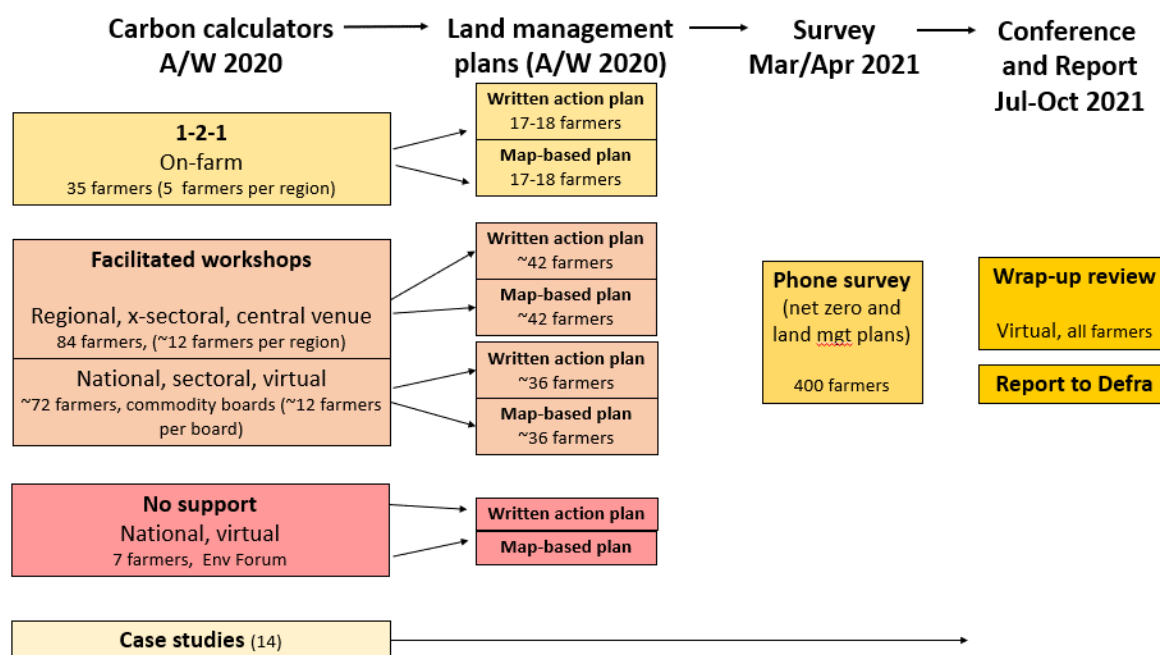
Many NFU members are keen to better understand their GHG baseline and then benchmark progress. However, the complexity of calculators can be off-putting and good quality data is required. The aim of this part of the T&T is not necessarily to ask ELMS to pay for GHG calculator support, rather it is to understand if the process of calculating a footprint can encourage a range of net zero practices and identify opportunities and barriers to taking action.

Up to 200 NFU members will be taken through a GHG calculation using three different levels of advice (1-2-1, virtual workshop and no support). Regional and national workshops will ensure good geographic and sectoral representation. The T&T will use one of the three freely available GHG calculators which best meets the needs of the T&T. The T&T is calculator-neutral and so does not aim to compare calculators or promote a particular calculator. The progress of a small number of case studies will be followed for the duration of the project. Please see diagram on page 2.

ii. *Incorporating net zero practices into a land management plan*

ELMs will require a land management plan and the NFU wants to ensure that these plans are simple, useful, farmer-friendly, and help the implementation of net zero practices.

Having undertaken a GHG calculation all participating farmers will be supported to produce land management plans with their net zero findings from phase (i) above in mind. Two different types of plan will be tested – an action-based written plan and a map-based plan. There is no guarantee that either the GHG calculation or land management plan will be completed in the time available. However, assessing the time and resources required to complete such activities is an important part of the test. Again, different approaches will be used to understand the impact of guidance and advice.



iii. Consultation with the wider membership

This T&T provides the opportunity to consult widely across the membership. A survey of an additional 400 NFU members will test the findings from (i) & (ii) to identify the most practical and effective approaches to net zero, land management planning and advice.

iv. Feedback to NFU members and report to Defra

A final wrap-up workshop to share the findings with all farmers involved in the T&T is planned. The final report from the T&T will be submitted to Defra.

2. Resourcing and governance

- ADAS has been appointed to manage the entire project on behalf of the NFU.
- The Environment Forum, ELMS task and finish group and the Net Zero steering group will be regularly informed of the development of the T&T. However, a dedicated steering group of members (Richard Bramley, Graham Young and Andrew Williamson, each representing one of the aforementioned member groups) and staff will guide the day-to-day work of the project.
- NFU regional offices have identified members to participate in the 1-2-1s and regional workshops. Members of national boards and forums will take part in the national sectoral workshops.

Further information

If you would like to know more, please contact the NFU staff named at the start of this briefing.