



Key ELS option dates for lowland farmers

January

20th Destroy winter cover crop late January - early February (EJ13)

31st Complete all cleaning of ditches (EB6-10)

February

1st Create rough cultivated areas for ground nesting birds from this date (EF13)

Only apply herbicides to control grass and broad-leaved weeds 1st February to 31st March (EF9, EF10, EF15)

3rd Destroy winter cover crop late January - early February (EJ13)

14th Maintain overwintered stubble until this date (ED3, EG4, EF6, EF15).

15th Establish undersown cereal crops from today (EG1)

28th Complete all cutting of ditch vegetation (EB6-10)

March

1st Start of bird breeding season - do not cut hedgerows/ woodland edges/scrub/pond buffers and field corners until 1st September & all hedge laying/coppicing should be completed (EB1-3, EB8-10, EC4, ED4, EF1, EE7-8, EK1) Retain wild bird seed mixture until this date before spring re-establishment (EF2) Resume normal management on unharvested cereal headland (EF10)

14th Last day for cutting rush dominated areas (EK4)

15th Final date to apply insecticides to unfertilised/unharvested cereal headlands and reduced herbicide cereal crops and cereals for whole crop silage (EF9-10, EF15 & EG4)

20th Complete creation of rough cultivated areas for ground nesting birds (EF13)

31st Final date for applying herbicides to control problem grass and broad-leaved weeds (EF9, EF10, EF15)

April

1st Do not cut/harrow/roll permanent grassland & rush pastures from this date (EK2-4)

20th Complete establishment of undersown cereal crop (EG1)

May

15th Spray undesirable weed species from this date (EF22)

June

1st Can cut/roll/harrow grassland from today (EK2)

15th Cut half area of nectar flower mixture from this date (EF4)

July

1st Earliest date to harvest undersown cereal crop (EG1)

Can cut/roll/harrow from 1st July (EK3)

7th Complete cutting of half of nectar flower mixture (EF4)

15th Cut buffer strips in general on cultivated land after this date (EE1-3, EE9, EC24, EJ9).

Earliest date to destroy grass ley in undersown spring cereals (EG1) and to cut in-field grass areas (EJ5)

31st Cultivated areas for ground nesting birds must be retained until today (EF13).

Retain extended overwintered stubble and natural regeneration until 31st July (EF22)

August

1st Cut sown buffer strips during August and September. Apply herbicides to destroy green cover from today (EF22) Cut rush-dominated areas from 1st August (EK4)

15th Return extended overwintered stubble to normal management (EF22)

September

1st Cutting of hedgerows/woodland edges/scrub/pond buffers/field corners allowed (EB1-3, EB8-10, EC4, ED4, EE7-8, EF1, EK1)

15th Start of period for cleaning ditches and cutting ditch vegetation (EB6-10)

Cut whole of nectar flower mixture from this date (EF4) Establish winter cover crop by this date (EJ13)

30th Last date for light surface cultivation to encourage weed germination and loosen surface compaction (EF15 & EF22)

October

1st Harvest maize crops by this date (EJ2, EJ10)

31st Complete whole cutting of nectar flower mixture (EF4)

December

31st Complete spraying out sown crop to create skylark plot (EF8)

Need further help and information?

To arrange an ELS farm visit from an adviser or book onto an ELS farm event in your region,

Tel: 0300 060 1695

Email: farmevents@naturalengland.org.uk

Website: www.naturalengland.org.uk/farめvents

For further information on ELS and to apply for the scheme:

Tel: 0300 060 0011

Website: www.naturalengland.org.uk/es



Key ELS option dates for upland farmers

January

31st Complete all cleaning of ditches (EB6-10)

February

28th Complete all cutting of ditch vegetation (EB6-10)
Complete hedge laying and gapping up before 1st March (UB14)
Complete restoration work on hedge banks (UB15-16)
Complete cutting vegetation on archaeological features on moorland (UD 13)

March

1st Start of bird breeding season - do not cut hedgerows/ woodland edges/scrub/pond buffers/field corners and all hedge laying/coppicing should be completed before 1st March (EB1-3, EB8-10, EC4, ED4, EF1, EE7-8, EK1,EL1)
14th Last day for cutting rush dominated areas (EK4)
15th Can return grazing livestock from today on land where stock were off-wintered (UJ12)
16th Can spread fertilisers and manures next to streams, rivers and lakes within cross compliance and good practice rules where stock off-wintered (UJ12)

April

1st Do not cut/harrow/roll permanent grassland & rush pastures from this date (EK2-4, UL22&23, EL2/3/4)
Limit the daily level of stocking on upland grassland between 1st April and 30th June (UL22&23)
No liming until after 1st August (UL23)

May

30th Latest date for closing haymeadows (UL20)

June

1st Maintain minimum stocking rate/level of grazing (0.05LU/ha) from today until 30 September as part of moorland requirements (UX3)
Can cut/roll/harrow grassland from today (EK2, EL2)
30th Bracken control by harrowing is permitted under moorland requirements after today (UX3).
Return to normal stocking levels after this date (UL22-23)

July

1st Can harrow and roll grassland from today (UL22-23, EK3, EL3-4)
5th Allowed to cut hay from today (UL20)

August

1st Cut sown buffer strips during August and September
Can cut rush dominated fields (UL22-23, EK4, EL4)

September

1st Cutting of hedgerows/woodland edges/scrub/pond buffers/field corners/vegetation on moorland archaeological features allowed (EB1-3, EB8-10, EC4, ED4, EE7-8, EF1, EK1, EL1, UD13)
Carry out restoration work on a bank with a hedge from today (UB15/16)
Second cut of rush dominated areas allowed from today (UL22-23)
2nd Liming allowed on grassland (UL23)
15th Start of period for cleaning ditches and cutting ditch vegetation (EB6-10)
30th Maintain minimum stocking rate up to this date as part of moorland requirements (UX3)

November

1st Carry out hedge laying/gapping up from this date (UB14)

December

1st Remove livestock and refrain from spreading fertiliser/manure between 1 December and 15 March next to streams, rivers and lakes (UJ12)

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