

# Agriculture



In the early years of European integration, a shared desire to increase food production and restructure agriculture led to the development of the [common agricultural policy](#) (CAP). 60 years later, the CAP is the longest-running [European Union](#) (EU) policy, providing vital support to farmers, rural areas and the entire agri-food system across the EU. It accounts for 31% of the total [EU budget for the 2021–2027 period](#).

An agreement on the sixth major reform of the CAP was formally adopted in December 2021, with the new CAP due to apply from 2023. It will seek to ensure a sustainable future for European farmers, provide more targeted support to smaller farms, and allow greater flexibility for EU [Member States](#) to adapt measures to local conditions. This will pave the way for a fairer, greener and more performance-based CAP, which will provide a stable, safe and healthy food supply for EU citizens. Agriculture and rural areas are central elements of the [European Green Deal](#), and the new CAP will be a key tool in reaching the ambitions of the [farm-to-fork](#) and [biodiversity strategies](#).

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