Crop diversification
- Cropping and fallow period
- Nitrogen fixing crops

Ecological focus areas
- EFA Catch crop period
- EFA Cover crop period
- EFA Fallow period
- EFA Nitrogen fixing crops

Hedges and trees in line must be present all year
Buffer strips and field margins must be present all year
Environmentally sensitive permanent grassland must be retained all year

Making a BPS application (including young farmer payment) and application or new entrants
- 1 January - BPS 2018 scheme year begins
- 13 March - Application window opens
- 15 May (Midnight) - BPS 2018 application, entitlements transfer and applications to the national reserve deadlines.
- 31 May (Midnight) - deadline for making certain changes to a submitted application without getting a penalty
- 11 June (Midnight) - BPS late application deadline
- RPA makes BPS 2018 payments by 30 June
- 31 December - BPS 2018 scheme year ends

Version 1.0
* Land used to claim BPS must be eligible all year