

Milk Production Reduction Scheme:

how to apply

Last updated:

10 September 2016,

The Milk Production Reduction Scheme provides money to milk producers who volunteer to reduce their cows' milk deliveries.

Contents

1. [What is the Milk Production Reduction Scheme?](#)
2. [Who can apply?](#)
3. [How and when to apply](#)
4. [How to claim for payment](#)
5. [Payments](#)
6. [Contact us](#)

The scheme is now open (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2016/1612). See deadlines for applications below.

What is the Milk Production Reduction Scheme?

The scheme – which is voluntary – provides money to milk producers who reduce the amount of cows' milk they deliver to first purchasers during a 3-month period, known as the 'reduction period'. This is compared with the same 3-month period in the previous calendar year, known as the 'reference period'.

There may be up to 4 reduction periods:

1. 1 October to 31 December 2016
2. 1 November 2016 to 31 January 2017
3. 1 December 2016 to 28 February 2017
4. 1 January to 31 March 2017

You will be paid €14.00/£11.87 per 100 kg (€14.42/£12.23 per 100 litres) for the amount of cows' milk eligible for payment. The exchange rate is that set by the European Central Bank on 31 August 2016.

If the scheme is over-subscribed in one or more reference periods, the volume of cows' milk eligible for payment will be reduced. If one of the reduction periods is full or oversubscribed, the remaining reduction periods will be cancelled. If this happens, all applications for the remaining reduction periods will be rejected.

Direct sales and milk from species other than cows are not part of the scheme.

Who can apply?

You can apply if you were delivering cows' milk to a first purchaser in July 2016 and you were a milk producer in the reference period you're applying for.

To apply, you must plan to reduce your cows' milk deliveries by at least 1,457 litres (1,500kg) in the relevant reduction period. The maximum you can apply for is a 50% reduction of the cows' milk you produced in the reference period (even if you plan to reduce milk deliveries by more than 50%).

If you apply for the first reduction period, you can also apply for the fourth reduction period. Otherwise, you can only apply for a single reduction period.

You will need to be registered with RPA – see how to [register for rural payments](#).

How and when to apply

Apply to join the scheme

To apply to join the scheme, fill in an [MPRS1 application form](#) (PDF, 226KB, 2 pages) and send it to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). You must also send proof of the cows' milk that you delivered to a first purchaser (copies of milk payment statements) in:

- each month of the relevant reference period
- July 2016

Proof could be a copy of a **milk cheque or purchaser statement** for each of the relevant months. You can send photocopies.

As this proof forms part of your application, you must send it with your application form. Without this proof, your application is incomplete and will be rejected.

Deadlines for applications

RPA must receive your application and proof by:

1. first reduction period - **21 September 2016 at 11am**
2. second reduction period - **12 October 2016 at 11am**
3. third reduction period - **9 November 2016 at 11am**
4. fourth reduction period - **7 December 2016 at 11am**

RPA can't accept late, incorrect or incomplete applications.

Where to send forms and proof

Send your completed form and proof to:

**Milk Production Reduction Scheme
Rural Payments Agency
Room 151
Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH**

How you'll know if you've been accepted into the scheme

RPA will write to you within 7 working days of the relevant application deadline to let you know if your application has been accepted or rejected.

RPA will confirm the amount of reduction you can apply for payment on

If your application is accepted, RPA will also confirm the amount of the reduction you can apply for payment on. This may be less than the volume in your application if:

- the scheme is over-subscribed in the reference period you applied for
- you applied for a reduction of more than 50%

How to claim for payment

If RPA accepts your application to join the scheme, you will need to fill in an [MPRS2 claim form](#) (PDF, 218KB, 2 pages) to claim your payment. Send it to the address shown in [Where to send forms and proof](#).

When to claim

RPA must receive your completed claim form within 45 days of the end of the relevant reduction period. RPA will not accept any forms received before or after this 45-day period.

Send proof with your claim

You must also send proof showing the total reduction made during the relevant reduction period. As this forms part of your claim, you must send it with your claim form. Without this proof, your claim is incomplete and will be rejected.

Proof could be a copy of a milk cheque or purchaser statement for each of the relevant months. You can send photocopies.

If you no longer produce cows' milk and therefore you don't have either milk cheques or purchaser statements, RPA will accept a letter from your purchaser confirming that no cows' milk was delivered during one or more of the reduction months.

Payments

The maximum reduction you can claim payment on is the amount that RPA confirmed to you.

Within this limit, RPA will pay you for the actual reduction in your deliveries of cows' milk.

If you don't reduce your milk deliveries sufficiently, we will reduce your payment. You will receive:

- the full payment if the actual reduction is 80% or more of the amount we confirmed
- 80% of the payment if the actual reduction is 50% or more, but less than 80% of the amount we confirmed
- 50% of the payment if the actual reduction is 20% or more, but less than 50% of the amount we confirmed
- no payment if the actual reduction is less than 20% of the amount we confirmed

Payment will be made direct to the bank account details RPA hold, normally within 90 days of the end of the reduction period. If your bank account details have recently changed, please contact the Rural Payments helpline on 03000 200 301.

Contact us

**Milk Production Reduction Scheme
Rural Payments Agency
Room 151
Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH**

Telephone: 03000 200 301

For more details go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/milk-production-reduction-scheme-how-to-apply>