

FARMING
connect
cyswllt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

Invest in the Farm Advisory Service




prepare for your next cross
compliance inspection ...one-to-
one subsidised on-farm support



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



What is the Farm Advisory Service

...how will it benefit me?

The Farm Advisory Service (FAS) will help you meet cross compliance requirements by identifying possible breaches and providing you with guidance to address these.

The on-farm advice you receive will be:

- One-to-one
- Confidential
- Subsidised

A Farm Advisory Service visit could provide you with peace of mind and help you avoid worry over cross compliance inspections. Choose the options you need to help you identify potential problems and avoid financial penalties. It could be a very sound investment of both your time and money.

The farm advisory visit

...what to expect

The Farm Advisory Service is flexible and your farm advisory visit can be tailored to the needs of your farm.

If you want a general overview, your adviser can provide you with a simple checklist approach relevant to your holding. This will cover all Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions

(GAECs). It will highlight any areas where you may not be meeting requirements.

In addition or in place of this, if you feel you would benefit from more specialist advice, you could ask your adviser to focus on one or more specific SMRs and GAECs. For example:

Animal identification

- Cattle registration and tagging
- Identification rules for sheep and pigs
- Herd/flock book and movement records

Animal welfare

- Calf accommodation - meeting regulations
- Implementing welfare codes for all livestock
- Caring for animals - appropriately trained staff

Environmental protection

- Farm chemicals, sheep dip, crop sprays, disinfectants - correct disposal
- Farm fuels and silage effluent - correct storage

Environmental management

- Sewage sludge - correct application
- Protection and management of Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and historical features
- Protection of wild birds and their nest sites



Land management

- Prevention of soil erosion
- Avoiding either under or over grazing
- Supplementary feeding on semi-natural vegetation
- Advice on notifiable weeds
- Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) regulations

Food law

- Use of non-approved animal growth promoters
- Dairy hygiene inspections
- Recognition of BSE and scrapie
- Storage of animal feedstuffs

Your farm advisory visit discussions and report will provide you with a clear plan to implement improvements.

How do I apply for the Farm Advisory Service?

After registering with Farming Connect your next step should be to contact your regional Farming Connect executive. Based at each of the three Welsh Assembly Government Divisional Offices, their role is to:

- Discuss your requirements and provide more information on the service
- Guide you through the application process

- Help you select the appropriate FAS adviser(s) from our approved list
- Advise you on your entitlement to subsidised support

Once you are registered for Farming Connect and have expressed an interest in the Farm Advisory Service, if you are eligible you will be sent an application pack which contains:

- FAS application form
- Guidance notes
- 'How to complete the FAS form' guide
- List of approved advisers who can provide the service

Selecting an adviser

Before you select your adviser(s) you will need to:

- Consider your own specific requirements and the adviser's area of expertise
- Check their availability to deliver the service within six months from the date shown on your FAS approval letter
- Discuss your needs and agree a quote with your selected adviser

Your regional Farming Connect executive will help you with all the necessary processes.



Receiving the service

We have a number of approved advisers located throughout Wales who can provide the support and specialist expertise you need under the Farm Advisory Service.

Once you have agreed the number of days support you require with your selected adviser(s) you can agree costs per day directly with the appointed company or individual.

You will be advised to ensure that all the necessary documentation and information is available before the farm advisory visit, so that your adviser can make best use of their time on your farm.

You have six months from the date shown on your Farm Advisory Service approval letter from Farming Connect in which to:

- Receive the one-to-one support and a copy of your FAS report
- Pay your appointed adviser(s) for the work
- Submit your claim for re-imbusement to Farming Connect

Eligibility and funding

...what am I entitled to?

Your business must be registered for the new range of Farming Connect services in order to access the Farm Advisory Service.

The majority of businesses will be able to claim back 50% of the cost of the service. Businesses with Young Entrant status* will be able to claim back 80%. These rates are up to a maximum value of 1500 euros of support per business over the Rural Development Plan period (2007-2013).

The following table sets out the Farm Advisory Service eligibility criteria.

Funding	Eligibility criteria
<p>All eligible businesses 50%</p> <p>All businesses with Young Entrant status 80%*</p>	<p>FAS is voluntary and open to all businesses with a CRN number, a holding number and receiving payments under one or more of the following schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPS - Single Payment Scheme • OFS - Organic Farming Scheme • BWW - Better Woodlands for Wales • Tir Gofal • Tir Cynnal • Tir Mynydd

*The eligibility criteria for a business to qualify for Young Entrant status to access the Farm Advisory Service is that:

- At least one partner in the business is under 40 years of age at the date of application
- The business has a CRN/CPH number

Joint venture / Contract farming arrangements will be judged on a case by case basis.



Contact us

To benefit from the Farm Advisory Service you must have registered for the new range of Farming Connect services.

Call our Service Centre on **08456 000 813**.



You can also contact us at your nearest Welsh Assembly Government Divisional Office:

**North Wales
(Caernarfon)**

01286 674144

**Mid & South East Wales
(Llandrindod Wells)**

01597 823777

**South West Wales
(Carmarthen)**

01267 225300

www.farmingconnect.co.uk



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