



**FARMING**  
connect  
cyswllt  
**FFERMIO**

08456 000 813

## Invest in Training



skills assessment... practical and  
regulation-linked training...



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 Skills Development Programme

## *...how will it benefit me?*

Our subsidised skills development programme provides access to courses throughout Wales. These include:

- Practical skills
- Regulation-linked training

Skills training can enable you to improve business and technical efficiency and meet new challenges. The right courses will enable you to:

- Improve working practices within your business
- Meet statutory requirements
- Diversify into new areas

Invest in skills and training - this programme is open to you, to members of your immediate family and paid employees - it could be a very sound investment of both time and money.

## How do I apply for the skills development programme?

The first step is to contact your nearest Welsh Assembly Government Divisional Office. You will then be put in contact with one of Farming Connect's skills development co-ordinators. Their role is to:


- Discuss the skills requirement for your business and provide more information on the range of training available
- Conduct a skills assessment if required
- Help you select the appropriate course(s) and training provider(s) from our approved lists
- Guide you through the application process
- Advise you on your entitlement to subsidised support

Once you are registered for Farming Connect and have expressed an interest in the Skills Development Programme, you will be sent an application pack which contains:

- Skills Development Programme application form
- Guidance notes

## Do I need a skills assessment?

If you are registered with Farming Connect and express an interest in training, you will be offered an optional skills assessment. This will identify any training and development opportunities for your business and you can discuss any new skills or areas of expertise which you may want to develop.



Your skills development co-ordinator will help complete a training and development plan for your business, establish your training needs and will identify the most appropriate training courses.

## Selecting a course

We have a network of training providers throughout Wales who deliver approved or accredited courses on a wide range of topics. You can select courses or training to suit your business needs.

Our skills development co-ordinators will help you select a training provider from the list we will supply.

There is a wide range to choose from including:

### **Animal care/livestock**

- Sheep shearing
- Foot trimming
- Welfare of animals in transit
- Safe use of veterinary medicines

### **Food preparation and hygiene**

- Butchery skills
- Food safety in catering and retail
- Food hygiene
- Dairy and meat processing

### **Boundary management**

- Dry stone walling
- Strained wire fencing
- Hedge laying

## **Ground care**

Brushcutting / trimming / shredding

Habitat management

Safe use of mowers

Horticulture skills

## **Woodland management**

Chainsaw operation

Forestry machine operation

## **First Aid**

First aid at work

Emergency first aid

## **Health & Safety**

Site safety awareness

Mechanical handling operations

Risk assessments

Safety in the workplace

## **Lift truck and plant**

Forklift truck

Cranes and lifting

Loading shovel

Excavators

## **Machinery**

Abrasive wheels

Tractor driving

Telescopic handling


ATV/quad bike training

## **Driver training**

Trailer towing (B+E)

Large Goods Vehicle

Heavy Goods Vehicle



There are many more options available - your skills development co-ordinator will try to match your requirements to the appropriate training.

## Eligibility and funding

### *...what am I entitled to?*

The Skills Development Programme will be available to:

- All registered eligible Farming Connect businesses
- All business partners and family members of 16 years of age or over
- Employees of the business who can provide evidence of PAYE

Funding will be available for up to three courses per annum for each individual up to a maximum value of £1,000 per course.

The programme will only support approved or accredited courses delivered by training providers approved by Farming Connect.

The following table sets out the Skills Development Programme eligibility criteria.

Funding	Eligibility criteria
<p>Up to three training courses per annum for each individual up to a maximum of £1,000 per course</p> <p>All eligible businesses 50%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All producers, production and horticulture businesses with a holding number, CRN number and working in excess of 550 hours per annum</li> <li>• Forestry businesses with a current Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW) agreement</li> <li>• Businesses with Young Entrant status*</li> </ul>

\* The eligibility criteria for a business to qualify for Young Entrant status to access the Skills Development Programme is that:

- At least one partner in the business is under 40 years of age at the date of application
- The business meets the 550 hours per annum rule within three years
- 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 Farming Connect Skills Development Programme 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](http://www.farmingconnect.co.uk)



**75%** wedi'i ailgylchu  
recycled

© Crown copyright July 2009

CMK-22-01-167

E1470910