

FARMING
connect
cyswllt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

Invest in a Whole Farm Plan



technical and environmental
advice...
business planning...



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 a Whole Farm Plan

...how will it benefit me?

A Whole Farm Plan will provide you with subsidised one-to-one support to help you grow and develop your farm or forestry business.

Investing in a Whole Farm Plan which is tailored to your needs will help you:

- Plan for the future
- Run your business more efficiently
- Safeguard the future of your farm or forestry business

By improving on-farm efficiency you can expect:

- Higher returns
- Reduced expenditure
- Increased profits

Your Whole Farm Plan will give you confidential advice on a wide range of topics - this list sets out a few of the options which could be included:

Technical advice

Livestock

- Identify strengths and weaknesses through analysis of technical performance e.g. feeding / breeding advice
- Correct balance of livestock; expansion or contraction plans; effect on overall farm system

- Winter feeding; ration calculations - making the best use of on-farm and purchased feeds
- Breeding strategies - the best genetics for your herd or flock

Animal health

- Animal health plans - reduce or control disease in order to improve output; avoid introducing new disease

Cropping (including arable, grassland and horticulture)

- Soil nutrient management and fertiliser planning; making best use of manures
- Seed mix and variety selection
- Crop rotation planning


Environmental protection and enhancement

- Alternative energy and energy conservation - improving profitability
- Organic conversion - technical issues and financial implications
- Maximise returns within sustainable farming systems
- Woodland management - making better use of woodland

Business planning

- Establish business profit/loss forecasts
- Identify business strengths and weaknesses in relation to other similar businesses (benchmarking)



- 
- Clarify cashflow and budgets to negotiate overdraft/loan facilities with your bank and address issues such as income tax and capital investment
 - Consider the gross margins and the balance of the enterprises on your farm
 - Selecting and investing in new buildings/ machinery

Succession

- Succession planning - thinking about the future structure of your business

Diversification

- Diversification - are you making the best use of your land and buildings?

You will be provided with recommendations to address issues like these in a Whole Farm Plan.

How do I apply for a Whole Farm Plan?

After registering with Farming Connect, the first step is to contact your nearest Welsh Assembly Government Divisional Office. You will be put in contact with one of Farming Connect's regional Whole Farm Plan co-ordinators.

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 mentor(s) from our approved list
- Advise you on your entitlement to subsidised support

Once you have expressed an interest in a Whole Farm Plan, you will be sent an application pack which contains:

- Whole Farm Plan application form
- Guidance notes
- A farm data collection form
- List of approved mentors/advisers who can provide the service

Your Whole Farm Plan co-ordinator will help you with all the necessary processes.

Working with your mentor

We have mentors/advisers throughout Wales who will provide the expertise and support that you need to develop a Whole Farm Plan.

You will need to agree the number of days' support and costs per day with your appointed mentor(s).



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

- Receive the one-to-one support and a copy of your Whole Farm Plan
- Pay your appointed mentor(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 Whole Farm Plan.

Farming Connect can offer funding towards the cost of the work at 50% (or 80% for businesses with Young Entrant status*) up to a maximum of £250 per day (or £400 per day for businesses with Young Entrant status*).

You can apply for up to five days support over the programme period (Rural Development Plan 2007-2013). You can also apply for an additional three days of one-to-one support to support a diversification proposal.

The following table sets out the Whole Farm Plan eligibility criteria.

Funding	Eligibility criteria
All eligible businesses 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All producers, production and horticulture businesses with a holding number, CRN number and working in excess of 550 hours per annum• Forestry businesses with a current Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW) agreement• Businesses with Young Entrant status*
All businesses with Young Entrant status 80%*	

* The eligibility criteria for a business to qualify for Young Entrant status to access a Whole Farm Plan 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 Whole Farm Plan 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



75% wedi'i ailgylchu
recycled

© Crown copyright July 2009

CMK-22-01-167

E1470910