



**Farm  
Advisory  
Service**

## We help crofters navigate the challenges of remote or small-scale agricultural production and diversification.

Up to £5,860\* of funding is available for tailored advice to help keep your croft profitable and sustainable.

### Take advantage of a tailored Crofter's plan

This specialist advice option will give you the time of an experienced crofting adviser to discuss ideas, plans for the future, issues or concerns, and will result in a written advice plan tailored for you.

A crofter's plan typically covers the following elements:

- Environmental sustainability, opportunities, and risks.
- Business finances.
- Identification of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the crofting business.
- Croft legislative status.

The plan is fully funded through FAS - up to £1,600\*. You can choose your own specialist adviser\*\*, or FAS can help you to identify the right adviser for you.

### Access professional advice on succession planning

If handled correctly and at the right time, succession planning can provide certainty for the longer term.

Enlisting the help of a professional FAS adviser to lead discussions can remove the anxiety from those initial tricky conversations about your business vision and growth plans.

FAS advisers can help you look at business viability, profitability and technical efficiency; and provide an independent and objective viewpoint to guide discussions.

In addition, they can explain and recommend the steps required for crofting regulatory purposes, such as the Crofting Register and decrofting, and provide options for sub-letting, letting, assignments or transfers.

**98% of people that have received FAS Specialist Advice recommend it to others.**

\* Terms and conditions apply. Businesses that received support before 04 July 2024 are eligible to apply again. See [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot) for full details. \*\* FAS will undertake checks to ensure advisers have 4 years of experience working in the specialist field and relevant qualifications.



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## Improve technical skills through free mentoring support

Through FAS, new entrants to farming can access up to 4 days of one-to-one time, fully funded, with a personal mentor for help and support with issues specific to their business.

Mentoring is a great way to access the tools and knowledge you need to successfully navigate those vital early growth years, avoiding the common pitfalls. Mentors can offer their knowledge of agriculture and the food and drink industry. They can share their experience of running a farming business and practical skills such as hedge laying, drenching, shearing or lambing.

FAS mentoring recipients reported benefiting from the following improvements:

- Livestock/crop improvements.
- Improved soil management.
- Better business planning/decision-making.
- Reduced costs/overheads.
- Improved profit margin.
- More awareness of agricultural legislation.

**100% of farmers and crofters who have used the FAS mentoring service would recommend it to others.**

## Apply for an annual carbon audit to improve performance

Crofts with a low carbon footprint are often more efficient and profitable than similar enterprises.

Through FAS, you can apply for up to £660 of funding to commission an experienced agricultural consultant to carry out an initial carbon audit of your business (VAT is covered by the participating business).

This will establish your carbon footprint, identify the sources of emissions on your croft, benchmark your performance and highlight areas you can improve operational efficiency and potentially save costs.

## Resources and events for crofters

Whether you are a new or experienced crofter, FAS provides information on a range of topics that will be of interest to you. Visit the [Crofts & Small Farms page](#) on our website for advice and guidance.

In addition to our online resources and guidance, FAS holds many events throughout the year for crofters. For details on forthcoming events, please visit our [Events page](#).

## Apply now

Find out more and apply for funding by post or online. **By post:** call 0300 323 0161 or email [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot) for an application form. **Online:** [www.fas.scot/advice-grants](http://www.fas.scot/advice-grants)