



## News from the Farm Advisory Service:



### Rural Roundup - Funding opportunities and mineral supplementation

In this episode of Rural Roundup, released earlier in November, we discuss the mitigating effects of Storm Babet, the funding opportunities available to farmers and crofters through Preparing for Sustainable Farming, and mineral supplementation.

Rural Roundup is the Farm Advisory Service's regular podcast, featuring a roundup of the latest news and information for farmers and crofters across Scotland.

To tune in, use the QR code below or visit [www.fas.scot/sounds/](http://www.fas.scot/sounds/)



### Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme 2023

Deadline 30th November 2023

Don't forget to apply online. It's quick, easy and reduces ear tag errors

Find out more information at: [www.ruralpayments.org](http://www.ruralpayments.org)

### Getting the most out of your soil with PSF and FAS advice

By 2025, at least half of the funding available through the new rural support regime will require farmers and crofters to actively mitigate climate change and support biodiversity. Conducting soil sampling and testing through the Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) Scheme is important in helping your farming and crofting businesses improve nutrient planning and management.

If you want to take this further to build a full soil and nutrient management plan for your business, grant-funded advice is available through the Farm Advisory Service (FAS). A FAS soil and nutrient management specialist advice plan can help

you build on your knowledge, understand new practices, and make the best decisions for your business.

For a more comprehensive review of your business, please consider an Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP). This covers the full sustainability of the business, the management of natural resources, finances and environmental impacts of your business, including how to get the most out of the opportunities available.

For more information on ILMPs and specialist advice, visit [www.fas.scot/advice-grants](http://www.fas.scot/advice-grants) or contact us at [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot) or 0300 323 0161.

### Cattle and passport reconciliation

Winter offers the perfect opportunity, while cattle are housed, to check ear tags and carry out a passport reconciliation. All cattle on the farm should have the correct tags, a passport, and be correctly entered in the livestock records. This is especially important when you want to sell cattle. Passport reconciliation is the process of checking this.

The following simple steps will guide you through the process:

- Get a list of cattle on the holding from the ScotEID Website.
- Go through the passports you have on farm and tick these off the list.
- Go through the cattle on the farm and tick these off the list, whilst also checking their sex and breed information is correct.
- Make a note of any missing ear tags and order these from your tag supplier ASAP.
- Make a note of any anomalies and deal with these individually.

#### What if I have lost a passport?

Contact ScotEID by phone or email to request a replacement passport. They will send out a form to be completed and returned with a £20 fee. You should then be issued with a replacement passport, usually within 14 days.

#### What if I have a heifer that is registered as male?

On the passport simply score out 'male' and write 'female' beside it and return to ScotEID. In this scenario the passport should be replaced without a fee and returned within 14 days.

If you have extra passports and you don't have the animal (you know or believe that it has died) then you should return these passports to ScotEID.

Full guidance can be found at: [www.fas.scot/news/cattle-records-passport-reconciliation/](http://www.fas.scot/news/cattle-records-passport-reconciliation/)



Beth Errington, SAC Consulting

### Free events

At the Farm Advisory Service we run a range of events both online and in-person.

Visit [www.fas.scot/events](http://www.fas.scot/events) to sign up or contact the advice line and we'll help you get booked on.

#### Nutrient Management Workshop - Stirling Stirling, 28th November, 11:00am - 2:30pm

This meeting is aimed at anyone interested in nutrient management planning, particularly those farmers looking for a refresher on how best to work out nutrient requirements and applications. We will explain the basics of nutrient management planning and complete exercises to work out the nutrient requirements.

We will be holding more Nutrient Planning Workshops across Scotland, so please keep an eye on [www.fas.scot/events](http://www.fas.scot/events) for a workshop near you!

#### So You Want to Work with Cattle? Whauphill, 30th November, 11:00am - 2:00pm

Are you looking to gain more experience working with dairy or beef cattle? This on-farm workshop will cover basic calf health and rearing, how to work with cattle and observe them to ensure optimal animal health and basic record keeping. We will also discuss the process of becoming self employed.



#### Angus Arable Biodiversity Meeting Balkeerie, 30th November, 1:30pm - 4:00pm

Understanding your farm's nature baseline has never been more important. A journey can be long and arduous but there is broad consensus that all businesses across Scotland need to be thinking about conservation if we are to address the biodiversity crisis. Join us to learn what biodiversity is, what you should be looking for on your farm, best management practices and funding opportunities.

### The value of Skye cattle



The startling figure of £1.1 million for calves at the Portree calf sale in 2023 was shared by Daniel Urquhart, auctioneer at Dingwall and Highland marts at the Farm Advisory Service event 'The Value of Skye Cattle'.

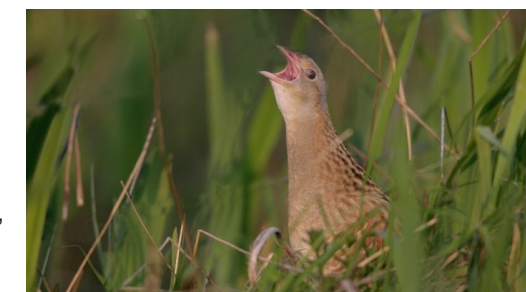
The importance of cattle to Skye's rural community was clear by the large turnout of crofters at the event in Sligachan. It highlighted where people can buy beef directly from crofters in Skye, and the various benefits to nature from the extensive cattle systems on the island were explained by several wildlife organisations.

Cathryn Baillie from Species on the Edge said:

"Some of the UK's rarest species rely heavily on cattle-grazed pastures, and the dung beetles associated with them. Studies have found that pipistrelle bats are attracted to small herds of cattle, and their foraging activity is higher in these areas. They are likely attracted by the high concentrations of small biting insects that accumulate around the herd."

Shelagh Parlane from the RSPB added:

"Beef cattle production on the Isle of Skye provides the ideal corncrake habitat. Early season removal of stock from fields encourages growth in the silage or hay fields, producing lush summer swards - exactly what our corncrakes need. When the crop is harvested (with wildlife friendly mowing), the field margins are left as refuges for any resident or transient birds. Aftermath grazing by cattle clears out these and other rough unmown areas, preparing the ground for next year's growing season. We need to ensure that agricultural policies reward and support these wildlife friendly farming systems."



A corncrake calling

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service (FAS) is funded by the Scottish Government, providing information and resources aimed at increasing the profitability and sustainability of farms and crofts. Grant support, a full programme of events, a subscription service for crofts and small farms, and a range of articles and publications form the core of this service which is designed to provide integrated advice for farmers and crofters across Scotland.



National Advice Hub  
T: 0300 323 0161  
E: [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot)  
W: [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)

If you need more advice on any topic, the Farm Advisory Service has a range of support and help available:

#### Advice line

For free telephone advice on a wide variety of topics including cross compliance, water framework directive requirements, climate change and other technical issues call us on 0300 323 0161 or email [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot). The advice line operates between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

#### Bespoke Advice and Grants

FAS can also help you to increase the profitability and sustainability of your farming business through Scottish Government grants including Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMPs) – worth up to £1,200.

The ILMP will identify opportunities and cost savings for your business, based on an independent and confidential assessment of your business by an experienced farm business adviser of your choosing. As part of your plan you can choose to benefit from up to two further specialist advice plans.

#### Online

Our website contains articles, videos and much more at [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)

