

Supporting Scottish farmers and crofters through unprecedented times



Welcome to the April 2020 edition of the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) stakeholder pack.

We are living through strange and uncertain times. With the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) reaching almost every country in the world, people and businesses far and wide are doing their best to adjust to the new 'normal'. Farmers and crofters are resilient people and the isolation in which many live and work will bring some comfort, but the weeks ahead will, no doubt, be challenging for many.

In this stakeholder pack, the team at FAS want to highlight the vital support and resources available to Scottish farmers and crofters to help in these challenging times. As well as information on our core one-to-one services, we point to a range of useful resources for managing your farm business during COVID-19. (See pages 2 and 3 for more information).

In addition, this issue also includes useful links and updates on the latest FAS video case study and podcast content.

Please share with your networks

1. Text for your newsletter: (FAS programme information)

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service – still open for business for Scottish farmers and crofters

The impact coronavirus (COVID-19) is having around the world is unprecedented. These are indeed very strange and uncertain times for businesses and people, but the FAS team members want you to know that they are available to support you. The [COVID-19 section of the Farm Advisory Service \(FAS\) website](#) provides useful resources to help you manage your farm business during these challenging times. These include:

- [Farm Emergency Plan template](#)
- [Emergency health plan template](#)
- [Emergency plan templates for dairy farms](#)
- [Croft and smallholder emergency plan template](#)
- [Lambing Information Sheets](#) (to help inexperienced staff)
- [Resources for beef producers](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe on farm](#)

Through FAS, Scottish farmers and crofters can access up to **£3,700 worth of grant funding** for an [Integrated Land Management Plan \(ILMP\)](#), [Specialist Advice](#) for in-depth resilience advice (up to £1,000, 100% funded), and [Carbon Audits](#) to benchmark performance against that of similar businesses.

Our advisers don't need to have face-to-face contact with you, there is a lot that can be achieved by speaking to our experts over the phone and/or video calling. Background data can be supplied via email or post, and land information can be collected remotely using mapping software and video calling or can be arranged so there is no social contact.

Contact us today to find out how we can help your farming business. To apply for support or for more information, please visit our [advice and grants page](#). Alternatively, call 0300 323 0161 (up to 30 minutes of free advice available) or email advice@fas.scot.

2. Text for your newsletter: (FAS programme information)

Do you have a plan for coronavirus (COVID-19)?

The impacts of COVID-19 will be far-reaching, and could intrude into many areas of farming life and business that we may not fully appreciate yet. While farmers and crofters are resilient people, and the isolation in which many live and work will bring some comfort, but it also brings specific challenges.

It is not an overreaction to suggest that every business needs to prepare for at least a short-term labour challenge created by COVID-19. It is likely that most people will contract the virus, but for most it will be a mild illness from which they will recover quickly. However, this still creates a huge challenge for the farming industry as employees or contractors have to self-isolate for 7 or 14 days if they or someone in their household displays symptoms. No one can say with certainty who will have a mild illness and who might find themselves confined to a bed – in a hospital or at home.

Farmers often carry on regardless of illness because stock still needs to be fed and work done. However, you cannot assume that you will be physically able to do this. Therefore, it is absolutely vital that you have a plan in place so that, in the event that you become too ill to work as normal or lose critical staff, the important jobs can still be done – beasts fed, cows milked and crops picked.

All businesses need to prepare an emergency plan and we will help you to do this. FAS can provide support in the following areas:

- **[Emergency Planning templates](#)** that will help you to create an emergency plan for your business, with specific resources for different enterprises and guidance notes about how to do this.
- **Guidance and information by sector** (e.g. [livestock](#), [crop health](#)). This includes information about dealing with common challenges arising from this crisis and information to support less experienced people who may find themselves helping on the farm.
- **Signposting to other sources of support for farmers during this crisis** and information about how these can help you with this specific challenge. For more information, please visit <https://www.fas.scot>



3. Text and image for your newsletter: (video content)

Mentoring new entrants to market – thoughts from a tea business owner

The latest case study video from the [Farm Advisory Service \(FAS\)](#) features comments from Beverly Wainwright, Owner of The Scottish Tea Factory.

In the video, Beverly describes her experience of mentoring new entrants to the Scottish tea market and how that experience has helped her to consider new questions about the way she runs her own business.

[Watch video for full details](#)

Could mentoring help you grow your new business?

Curious to find out how mentoring could help you grow your business? Or maybe you're an experienced farmer who has been approached for help, but not sure how to cover your time financially.

FAS can help you secure an honorarium worth £250/day for up to 4 days' worth of mentoring (per mentee).

Contact advice@fas.scot, call 0300 323 0161 or visit www.fas.scot/advice-grants-2-2 to find out how FAS can help.



[Watch video](#)



4. Text and image for your newsletter: (podcast content)

Beef Efficiency Scheme: Genomics podcast featuring Eileen Wall

In this podcast, Eileen Wall, Head of Research at SRUC, provides an overview of the genomics work she is involved in – looking at genetics data and tissue samples recorded by farmers on the Beef Efficiency Scheme (BES).

Through the genomics project, Eileen and her team hope to develop genetic and genomic evaluations that could be beneficial for farmers looking to develop specific traits within their livestock to improve production and/or profitability.

[Listen now](#)

The BES scheme is a 5-year climate change scheme that aims to help beef breeders improve their efficiency and sustainability, and the quality of their beef herd – helping increase their genetic value from 2016 and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. BES participants will have received a Carbon Audit in 2017/18 and had assistance to do this from a qualified farm consultant. This is done via the [AgRE Calc© tool](#).



Eileen Wall
Head of Research
SRUC



Headliner Embed

[Listen now](#)

Images to use with newsletter text/online



Suggested Tweets to share



Safeguard your farming business in uncertain times. Take advantage of Government grant funding through @FASScot, that allows you to access expert support to improve business resilience, efficiency and operations <http://ow.ly/3I9t50zrxSW> #farmingadvice #agribusiness



These are indeed very strange and uncertain times for businesses and people. The @FASScot team members want Scottish farmers and crofters to know they are available to support you. Find out about our services at <http://ow.ly/3I9t50zrxSW> #farmingadvice #agribusiness



The COVID-19 section of the @FASScot website provides useful resources for managing your farm business during challenging times. Visit <http://ow.ly/Yoc550zrxJq> for more information. #farmingadvice #agribusiness #Scottishfarmer #Scottishcrofter



Are you a Scottish farmer or crofter? @FASScot can help you prepare an emergency plan for managing your farm business during challenging times. Visit <http://ow.ly/JvBv50zrBvE> to see how we can help. #farmingadvice #agribusiness



Could #mentoring help you think in new ways? See @FASScot case study video on Beverly Wainwright, owner of The Scottish Tea Factory, commenting on how mentoring others helped her consider her own business in new ways <http://ow.ly/OXni50zrBzO> #newfarmer #farmingadvice



In the face of uncertain times, it's now more important than ever to safeguard the people, assets and operations of your farming business. Find out how @FASScot can help you to access expert support to improve business resilience and efficiency <http://ow.ly/3I9t50zrxSW> #farmingadvice #agribusiness

Posts to share on LinkedIn and Facebook



Scotland's Farm Advisory Service (FAS) – open for business?

Take advantage of Government grant funding through FAS one-to-one services, that allow you to access expert support to improve business resilience, efficiency and operations – all of which are critical to safeguarding business continuity in uncertain times: <http://ow.ly/3l9t50zrxSW>



Do you have a plan for coronavirus (COVID-19)?

The impacts of COVID-19 will be far-reaching, and could intrude into many areas of farming life and business that we may not fully appreciate yet. **All** businesses need to prepare an emergency plan and the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) can help you to do this. More info at <http://ow.ly/Yoc550zrxJq>



Mentoring new entrants to market – thoughts from a tea business owner

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Watch now: <http://ow.ly/OXni50zrBzO>

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Visit our website:
<https://www.fas.scot/>

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