

# Farm Advisory Service

## One-to-one advice and funding stakeholder pack: Winter 2024



**Farm  
Advisory  
Service**



# Support for farmers, crofters and livestock in a changing climate



Welcome to the Winter 2024 edition of the FAS stakeholder pack.

In this edition, we have a focus on crofters, and the FAS services available to support crofters to address climate change, support biodiversity and secure a more prosperous future.

We also take a look at the difference between ‘sustainability’ and ‘resilience’ and how FAS can help farming businesses attain both.

Look out for links to our short [stakeholder pack survey](#) – designed to gather your feedback on what you’d like to see more or less of in the future.

## Help spread the word by sharing the contents of this pack with your networks and contacts!

# 1. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)

## Get a tailored advice plan written for your croft

Crofters often face different challenges from larger farming businesses. Operating on a smaller scale can mean that crofters cannot take advantage of economies of scale and the associated savings that come with it. As such, operating as a smaller business can be more expensive and feel less secure.

Through the Farm Advisory Service (FAS), you can **receive funding for specialist advice tailored to your croft or smallholding** to help you overcome the challenges of crofting and keep your croft profitable and sustainable.

A crofters plan through FAS will provide you with an opportunity to **discuss ideas, plans for the future, and any issues or concerns**, resulting in a tailored advice plan written for you. This could cover finances, crofting legislative status, opportunities for environmental sustainability, and finding a good work life balance.

Up to **£2,000 of funding is available** through FAS for a crofters plan plus another specialist advice option, which will also be tailored to your business. To find out more, contact FAS at [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot) or 0300 323 0161 and apply online at [www.fas.scot/specialist-advice](http://www.fas.scot/specialist-advice).

[Download our flyer for further information on the support available to crofters.](#)



## 2. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)

### Get up to £3,700 in funding to help your croft remain profitable and sustainable in the years ahead

Operating as a crofter presents different challenges from those larger farming businesses face. You likely cannot take advantage of economies of scale, meaning your business can be more expensive and feel less secure. All advice through the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) can be used by crofters. As well as specific support for crofters in the form of the crofter's plan specialist advice option, **each of the thirteen FAS specialist advice options can account for the size of your business and be tailored to the needs of your croft.** You can receive funding for two advice options covering topics such as succession planning, business efficiency, animal welfare or organics. ✂

Funding is also available for an integrated land management plan, which is an excellent option for crofts to help ensure they remain profitable and sustainable. **Free mentoring is available for crofters in their first five years** of business and provides regular support from an experienced mentor in the crofting community. Funding for an annual carbon audit can help you to be more efficient and environmentally friendly.

**Up to £3,700 in funding is available.** To find out more, contact FAS at [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot) or 0300 323 0161 and apply online at <https://www.fas.scot/advice-grants/>.

[Download our flyer for further information on the support available to crofters.](#)

### 3. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)

#### **Cultivating success: understanding sustainability and resilience in agriculture**

'**Sustainability**' and '**resilience**' are words you will likely hear more and more. They are sometimes used interchangeably, but the Farming Advice Service (FAS) uses them in the following ways.

Sustainability refers to the **environmental sustainability of your business** and includes your farm or croft's carbon footprint, soil health and biodiversity. Through FAS, you can receive a **government-funded Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP), annual carbon audits and specialist advice** to help you move towards more sustainable systems. Specialist advice topics you may want to explore include biodiversity, habitat and landscape management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, or soil and nutrient management.

Resilience refers to your business's ability to weather personal change, financial challenges, and the impacts of climate change. A funded ILMP and specialist advice through FAS can support in **understanding business risks and opportunities, exploring diversification, finding the right work-life balance, and planning for succession.**



More sustainable businesses are often more resilient, and businesses with a lower carbon footprint are often more profitable.

**Get funded up to £3,700** for ILMPs, specialist advice, and carbon audits. Find out more and apply at [www.fas.scot/advice-grants/](http://www.fas.scot/advice-grants/), [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot), or 0300 323 0161.

## 4. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)



### 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**.

Up to £3,700 of funding is available through FAS for ILMPs, specialist advice, and carbon audits. Find out more and apply at [www.fas.scot/advice-grants/](http://www.fas.scot/advice-grants/), [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot), or 0300 323 0161.



## 5. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)

### **Combine PSF Animal Health and Welfare Interventions with funded advice through FAS for optimal productivity**

Maintaining the health and welfare of cattle and sheep is a high priority for all livestock farmers and crofters; it also results in **better production efficiency**, which means **lower greenhouse gas emissions**. In Scotland, you can get funding from the Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) fund for various interventions to help improve the health and welfare of your animals.

If you want to take this further and **develop a comprehensive animal health and welfare plan** for your business, you can also apply for funding to get animal welfare specialist advice through FAS.

This will provide you with **personalised recommendations** covering anything from breeding, feeding, and animal housing plans to improving the quality of life for your livestock and helping you meet regulation requirements. A specialist advisor qualified in the relevant field will provide you with **advice tailored to the needs of your business**. This can be combined with other FAS specialist advice options to give your business the tools to make significant changes.

**Up to £2,000 is available through FAS** for two specialist advice options. For more information about the options and to apply for funding, visit [www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/](http://www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/) or contact us at [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot) or 0300 323 0161.



# Images to use with newsletter text/online



## Suggested Tweet & image to share



Get up to £3.7k in funding through @FAS Scot to help keep your croft profitable and sustainable. 🐔  
Tailored Specialist advice, Integrated Land Management Plans, Mentoring and Carbon Audits can help overcome  
the challenges of small-scale #ScottishFarming ➡ <https://www.fas.scot/advice-grants>



## Suggested Tweet & image to share




Get £3.7k in funding through @FASScot to improve the environmental #Sustainability of your #ScottishFarming business. Business reviews, specialist advice & annual carbon audits can reduce emissions, improve soil health & biodiversity & build #Resilience ➡ <https://www.fas.scot/advice-grants>



## Suggested Tweet & image to share



Complement the Preparing for Sustainable Farming soil sampling & testing with @FASScot soil & nutrient management specialist advice to help you build knowledge, understand new practices and make the best decisions for your #ScottishFarming business  [www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/](http://www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/)



## Suggested Tweet & image to share



Maintain the health & welfare of your livestock, 🐏🐑🐓 boost productivity & reduce emissions. Combine PSF Animal Health & Welfare Interventions with funded @FAS Scot advice to get a tailored plan for your #ScottishFarming business. ➡ <http://www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/>



# Posts to share on LinkedIn and Facebook



**Get up to £3.7k in funding through @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service - FAS to help keep your croft profitable and sustainable.** 🐔

Tailored Specialist advice, Integrated Land Management Plans, Mentoring and Carbon Audits can help overcome the challenges of small-scale #ScottishFarming ➡

<https://www.fas.scot/advice-grants>



**Get £3.7k in funding through @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service - FAS to improve the environmental #Sustainability of your #ScottishFarming business.**

Business reviews, specialist advice & annual carbon audits can reduce emissions, improve soil health & biodiversity & build #Resilience

➡ <https://www.fas.scot/advice-grants>



**Complement the Preparing for Sustainable Farming soil sampling & testing with @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service - FAS soil & nutrient management specialist advice** to help you

build knowledge, understand new practices and make the best decisions for your

#ScottishFarming business 👉

[www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/](http://www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/)



**Maintain the health & welfare of your livestock, 🐄🐑🐔 boost productivity & reduce emissions.**

Combine PSF Animal Health & Welfare Interventions with funded @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service - FAS advice to get a tailored plan for your #ScottishFarming business. ➡

<http://www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/>



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For further information, please contact:

**0300 323 0161**

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