

# News from the Farm Advisory Service:



FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF SHAREHOLDERS IN A COMMON GRAZING

Video -

## Financial responsibilities of shareholders in a Common Grazing

Shareholders in a Common Grazing have many benefits such as access to extensive grazing and communal facilities. However, with that, comes the responsibility of contributing towards the cost of running the Common Grazing. This is the case whether the shareholder uses the CG or not. Your CG committee can confirm how contributions and payments are dealt with.

If you'd like to learn more, watch our video on YouTube, by using the QR code or the link below  
[www.youtube.com/FASScot](http://www.youtube.com/FASScot)



## Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) Deadline

All claims must be submitted by end of February 2025

## Access the highly rated government-funded mentoring programme

If you have set up or become the head of a farming or crofting business in the last five years, you could benefit from fully funded mentoring through the Farm Advisory Service. You will get up to 4 days of support from an experienced mentor with valuable skills and knowledge matched to your business's needs.

FAS mentors across Scotland can guide you through the vital set-up and early growth years of your business and support you in areas you lack experience, including:

- Running farm businesses
- Traditional skills, e.g. stone walling, hedge laying
- Animal welfare
- Land-based skills

- Food and drink industry experience
- Finance and business planning
- Surveying and planning
- Conservation and biodiversity

Last year, 100% of mentees rated their mentor's working practices as either excellent or good, and 93% rated the quality of support the same. Specific feedback provided on FAS mentors includes: "invaluable support and advice," "highly recommended," "Huge amount of expertise and enthusiasm," "incredibly friendly, supportive, encouraging and provided on-point guidance," and "This has given us the confidence to move forward."

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

## Pivoting for resilience

The UK and wider Euro zone have been able to maintain positive (although sometimes described as 'sluggish') growth following Covid, the energy crisis, and the ongoing Ukraine war. Lessons learned by local communities and food networks include a focus on local sourcing (impacting procurement channels) and an associated emphasis on healthy eating. These adaptations will be necessary as new challenges emerge:

- Conflicts in the Middle East: If the re-routing of ships to avoid the Suez Canal continues, this could have knock-on effects for energy prices.
- Extreme weather events are expected to become more frequent over the coming decade. Climate change also increases the risk of plant and animal disease outbreaks.

While local food networks can boost short-term resilience in the face of these challenges, fluid and efficient international commodity markets are equally essential to providing access to safe and nutritious food for everyone: 20% of food consumed globally is transported across an international border.

### Reducing emissions

In the coming decade, global agricultural greenhouse gas emissions are set to increase by 5%. This is less than the increase in total agricultural output, indicating a decrease in carbon intensity of agricultural production, enabled by improvements to productivity. The World Bank stipulates transitioning the global food system could eliminate one third of global emissions by 2050.

The UK and EU's emphasis on sustainability in food production is world leading. However, more stringent requirements may increase the cost of production, so farmers should prioritise sustainability innovations that have productivity benefits which will help mitigate additional costs, as well as increase resilience to external shocks.

Brady Stevens, SAC Consulting

This article is from the January edition of Agribusiness News. To read more visit: [www.fas.scot/publication/agribusiness-news-january-2025/](http://www.fas.scot/publication/agribusiness-news-january-2025/)

## 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.

### Suckler Nutrition Workshop - Feeding for Success

Blairstown, 9th January 10:30am - 2:30pm

### Sheep Nutrition Workshop - Keith

Keith, 14th January, 10:00am - 3:00pm

### Sheep Nutrition Workshop - Wick

Wick, 15th January, 10:00am - 3:00pm

### Crofting Sheep - Nutrition and Health Before Lambing

Kyle, 15th January, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

### Crofting Cows - Uist

Benbecula, 16th January, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

### Crofting Discussion Group - Tiree

Tiree, 20th January, 7:00pm - 9:00pm



## FAS Conference

30th January 2025

The FAS conference will be held on 30th January 2025 at Perth Racecourse, focussing on farming for the future, with key themes involving two of the most important elements of any farming business - our land and our people.

We have a fantastic line up of speakers and panellists, who will discuss how they have positioned their farming businesses or area of expertise to grow and succeed in the future, irrespective of the various challenges that they face.

The topic of "land" will cover what we can learn from across the water from the Irish system, the role ruminant livestock play in the future of farming in Scotland, and how agritech can be implemented to boost biodiversity and efficiency. These elements will support how we can adapt for future changes, mitigating impacts on our businesses.

The topic of "people" will allow us to hear from a large-scale business, who will discuss their journey of growth, and how people and collaboration have been key to their successes. The day will end with some well-known names in an enthusiastic panel focussing on the very important topic of how we market the industry to improve public perception and attract the next generation of agri-leaders and work force. The day has been framed around future proofing to assist in knowledge transfer as well as to inspire those in the industry to prepare for future changes.

Make your booking at [www.fas.scot/events](http://www.fas.scot/events)

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service is funded by the Scottish Government. It is delivered by SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College, and Ricardo Energy and Environment.



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 £2,000.

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)



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