

News from the Farm Advisory Service:



Horticulture webinars catch up

Planning to grow and sell vegetables on your smallholding or croft? You can now catch up with our recordings of our Horticulture Webinar series on YouTube.

Over the course of two webinars, we looked at crop types, soils, crop rotations, composting, marketing your produce and more. Guest speakers included soil expert and horticulturalist Audrey Litterick, and marketing guru Calum Johnston, who share their expertise on growing and selling produce on your smallholding or croft.

Find our videos by searching for Scotland's Farm Advisory Service on YouTube or by using the QR code below.



Single Application Form (SAF)

The Single Application Form (SAF) is now open to allow completion of applications and will close at midnight 15th May.

Visit www.ruralpayments.org/ for more information

Become a farming or crofting mentor

Do you own a farming or crofting business and have skills and experience you can share with new entrants? Through The Farm Advisory Service (FAS), you can become a mentor and receive up to £1,000 to deliver 4 days of mentoring support, helping new entrants through the vital setup of their business.

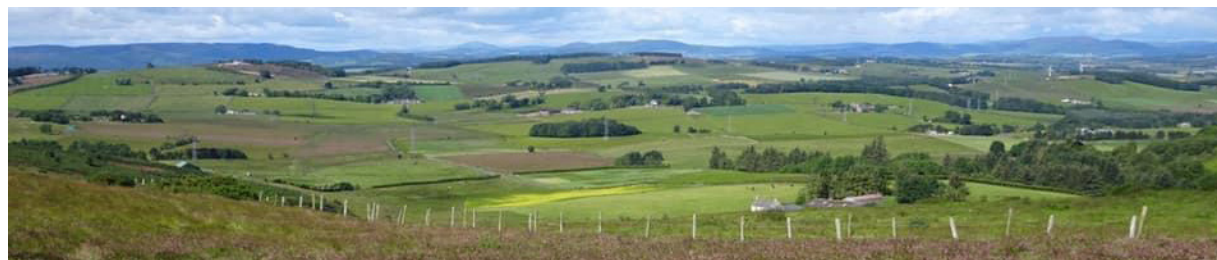
One of our experienced mentors Cara Cameron who has been mentoring since 2020 explains "I feel I am adding value" and "as much as I entered the mentor journey to pass on my help and knowledge to others, I can honestly say I have also learnt so much...it is

very much a mutual learning path and one that will provide you with great satisfaction".

Becoming a mentor was described by Cara as "very simple". The application asks for your skills and specific experience which "helps you to be matched with potential mentees".

If you are interested in becoming a FAS mentor and like Cara, would like to support new entrants to farming to "develop their ideas and learn new skills", contact FAS at advice@fas.scot or 0300 323 0161. More information can be found on the FAS website: www.fas.scot/advice-grants/.

Joint ventures - could they suit your business?



What are joint ventures?

Joint ventures are a form of co-operation between two or more parties formed in a legal manner, to form a business relationship other than as landlord and tenant. This can take the form of contract or share farming or business equity partnerships. Joint ventures are suitable for arable, livestock, and horticulture and can be a valuable way of introducing a new enterprise to a farm or croft.

For a successful joint venture the right mix of people, good communication, trust, and use of an independent advisor is essential. It can take a considerable amount of time to get the right combination of people, place, circumstances, and timing; and multiple introductions may be required.

Who are joint ventures for?

New entrants looking to get a start in the industry, established businesses seeking expansion and landowners, often without obvious successors, wishing to exit the industry gradually or completely.

Crofting can also lend itself to joint ventures with landlords looking for new tenants or owner-occupiers wishing to sublet their crofts able to offer joint ventures to new entrant or expanding crofters.

How can I find or offer a joint venture opportunity?

The Scottish Land Matching Service (SLMS, www.slms.scot/) is a free, independent service that operates a database of joint venture opportunities sought and available across farming and crofting. For more information on joint ventures see www.fas.scot/new-entrants/joint-ventures/ or contact SLMS.

Laura Henderson, 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 to sign up, use the QR code below or contact the advice line and we'll help you get booked on.

Preparing for Sustainable Farming: Animal Health & Welfare - Cattle
Online, 21st May, 8:00pm - 9:00pm

Common Grazings Lairg - Finance & Procedures Part 1
Lairg, 23rd May, 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Common Grazings Lochcarron - Finance & Procedures Part 1
Lochcarron, 28th May, 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Preparing for Sustainable Farming: Animal Health & Welfare - Sheep
Online, 28th May, 8:00pm - 9:00pm

Common Grazings Lairg - Finance & Procedures Part 2
Lairg, 30th May, 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Common Grazings Lochcarron - Finance & Procedures Part 2
Lochcarron, 4th June, 6:30pm - 9:00pm



Crofting Discussion Groups



Would you like to come along to crofting discussion groups in your area?

Would you like to come along to crofting discussion groups in your area to talk about livestock management, crofting regulations, common grazings, grassland and cropping, new techniques and innovations?

Crofting Discussion Groups are being set up in Shetland, Gairloch, Tiree, Lewis & Harris, and there's an existing club in Kilmuir on Skye. The Kilmuir Crofting Club has been running for two years with four meetings a year. Discussions have included the proposed national park, management of silage and hay, measures to help wildlife, managing soils, and peatland.

Register your interest in joining one of the new groups, or let us know if you'd like one in your area, by filling in this registration form:

www.fas.scot/rural-business/crofts-small-farms/crofting-discussion-groups/



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
W: 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. 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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot