

News from the Farm Advisory Service:



Rural Roundup – Enhanced Greening for 2026

From 1st January 2026, farmers and crofters with more than 15 hectares of arable land (including Temporary Grass) will need to manage Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) - areas of land managed for the benefit of the climate and the environment. In this podcast episode, Professor Steven Thomson from SRUC talks about about the greening conditional changes.

Listen to our episode by scanning the QR code below, or visit www.fas.scot/sounds



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Future Farming Investment Scheme

The Scottish Government has launched a new capital grant scheme – the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS). It offers upfront funding of up to 100% of the capital investment costs for agricultural businesses to help improve environmental performance and overall business efficiency.

A key aspect to note when considering applying for FFIS grant funding is that the planned capital investment/s must deliver at least one of the schemes four objectives and expected outcomes:

- To improve business efficiency and sustainability.
- To protect, restore or enhance the environment.
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- To mitigate the effect of climate change.

While the scheme has a £14 million budget, please note that this scheme is competitive and that you may not receive the funding you apply for, and that you cannot use the grant to purchase capital items linked to contracting activities. The maximum level of support businesses can apply for will be based on the total area of eligible agricultural land (excluding common grazing shares) that was declared on their SAF (Single Application Form) on 15 May this year.

Area of farm/croft	Maximum Grant that can be applied for
< 30 ha	£5,000
> 30.01 ha - 150 ha	£10,000
> 150 ha	£20,000

Only one application is allowed per agricultural business/Business Reference Number (BRN) per funding round. There is no minimum amount of support that you can apply for. However, another differing element of this scheme is that the Scottish Government intend to prioritise the way in which they allocate grant funding in order to deliver the best outcomes for the scheme. Priority will be given to: new entrants, young farmers, small agricultural businesses, tenants, island-based agricultural businesses, organically registered and certified businesses, and grant requests for investments in electronic identification (EID) equipment and investments in water efficiency.

Following an Offer of Grant, farmers and crofters will have nine months to purchase and/or carry out the investment/s and to provide evidence of carrying out their investment to SGRPID. In addition to which, capital investments must be retained for a period of at least six years from the date the Offer of Grant was made.

Applications open on 14 July and close on 22 August 2025. See ruralpayments.org.

Christine Beaton, 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 or contact the advice line and we'll help you get booked on.

Biodiversity Audit Meeting: Cattle Collars
Argyll, 16th July, 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Common Grazing – Management and Finance
Newtonmore, 16th July, 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Wigtownshire WiA – Greening Changes
Sorbie, 17th July, 11:00am - 2:00pm

Inverness WiA: FFIS Funding
Aberarder, 17th July, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Muirburn Licencing Scheme



Image by Jim Barton, CC BY-SA 2.0

Under the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill, the Scottish Government have announced that the muirburn licencing scheme will take effect on 1 January 2026.

This will give all those who need to survey peat depths time to do so over the summer and autumn. While NatureScot are developing an online application process which is due to go live this summer, the NatureScot website currently provides both written and video guidance on the information that you will need to provide when applying for a new muirburn licence:

- Details of the area(s) you wish to burn.
- Training evidence.
- Confirmation you will comply with the Muirburn Code.
- Peat depth survey data (optional, depending on the area and licensable purpose).

Please Note: When the new licence scheme is launched, it will become an offence to carry out muirburn in Scotland without a licence.

Christine Beaton, SAC Consulting

For further information, articles, videos and more visit our website at www.fas.scot

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 advice on any topic, the Farm Advisory Service can help

Advice line

For free telephone advice on a wide variety of topics, including the Whole Farm Plan, cross compliance, water framework directive, and other technical issues, call us on **0300 3232 0161** or email advice@fas.scot. The advice line operates between 9 am–5 pm Monday to Friday.

Funded advice and grants

Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMP). Up to £2,000 of funding is available for you to commission an adviser to undertake a confidential assessment of your business and develop a step-by-step action plan.

Specialist advice. Get support to take a deeper look at specific issues of concern or interest. You are eligible to receive specialist advice for two topics with £1,600 of funding per topic (see www.fas.scot/specialist-advice).

Mentoring for new entrants. If you are new to farming, you can receive up to **four days of FREE**, one-to-one Mentoring support from an experienced farmer or crofter.

Online

More information can be found at www.fas.scot/advice-grants/



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