

News from the Farm Advisory Service:



RURAL ROUNDUP



Rural Roundup podcast - Future Farming Investment Scheme

In our latest episode of Rural Roundup, George Chalmers and Tiffany Stephenson chat all about the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS), which opened on 14th July 2025 and will close on 22nd August 2025. Listen to our episode and don't miss the details on how this could shape the future of farming.

To listen to our episode scan the QR code below or visit www.fas.scot/sounds



Agricultural Census

The Scottish Government's 2025 Agricultural Census is open until 29th August. The census provides key information on agriculture in Scotland, enabling tailored support for the sector. Complete the census on the Rural Payments and Services website.

Combat drought and heat stress with funded support from FAS

Scotland's changing climate means that farmers and crofters will have to adapt to drier summers and higher temperatures, creating numerous challenges. The Farm Advisory Service (FAS) offers one-to-one support to help you tackle water scarcity and make long-term plans to build resilience to drought.

Drought and heat can seriously impact livestock and arable farms, but there are proven methods to combat heat stress, including shelter belts, silvopasture and improving the health of natural watercourses.

Some changes to improve your resilience to water scarcity may require significant investment. To understand how this aligns with

your long-term financial goals, an Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP) offers a comprehensive analysis of your business and a step-by-step action plan to ensure your farm or croft is profitable and sustainable for the years ahead.

You can receive up to £5,200 in funding through FAS to develop an ILMP and access specialist advice on two topics, such as water management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and animal welfare.

To find out more and apply for funding, visit our ILMP and Specialist Advice pages. For support choosing the best grant options and help finding an advisor, contact FAS at advice@fas.scot or **0300 323 0161**.

Bluetongue (BTV) virus update



From 1 July 2025, all of England has been a BTV-3 Restricted Zone (RZ). Farmers will need a licence to move animals out of the Restricted Zone.

If you want to move animals from a BTV-3 Restricted Zone to Scotland, you need a movement licence issued by APHA which confirms the animals have:

- A valid pre-movement test (at your expense), or
- Have been vaccinated with the Boehringer Bultavo-3 vaccine (for cattle only).
- Have no clinical symptoms.
- Sheep cannot move to Scotland without a negative BTV-3 pre-movement test from the National Reference Laboratory (Pirbright), even if they're vaccinated.

Christine Beaton, SAC Consulting

Further information can be found here:

www.gov.scot/publications/bluetongue/pages/bluetongue-movement-restrictions-for-animals/

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.

Shetland Crofting Discussion Group - Investing for Sustainability
Lerwick, 22nd July, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Soil Myth Busting Webinar - Carbon, Biology and Rock Dust
Online, 22nd July, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Deer Farming - Meikle Findowie Visit
Dunkeld, 25th July, 10:30am - 3:00pm

Grassland Roadshow Orkney - Soil & Grass
Burray, 29th July, 11:30am - 2:00pm

Farm Wildlife Walks - Inverness
Fearn, 31st July, 10:00am - 2:00pm

BVD eradication - Important changes & phase 6

All cattle keepers need to be aware that from 1 July 2025, Phase 6 of Scotland's BVD eradication scheme is starting. From 1 July there will be increased obligations for non-breeding herds and changes to restrictions for all herds with one or more Persistently Infected (PI) animals on their holding. Also, BVD sampling from birth can now be carried out using management tags.

From 1 July 2025

- Persistently Infected (PI) animals on a non-breeding holding must be kept separately from their first positive test. If a PI animal is still present on the holding after 40 days the CPH will be listed on the PI locator on ScotEID.
- BVD sampling can now be carried out from birth using management tags. The use of official tags for sampling is still however recommended.
- A 40-day period is allowed after the upload of a BVD positive antigen/virus result before ON movement restrictions are imposed.

New rules will also take effect from 1 February 2026

- Further restrictions for non-compliant compulsory BVD investigations (CBI) herds if the herd has not completed its CBI within 13 months include the CPH will be listed on ScotEID and movement restrictions applied for all ON movements.
- To protect herds from Trojan cows (a Trojan cow is a pregnant animal that is not itself a PI but is carrying a PI calf), animals in calf which move onto holdings must have their calves tested within 40 days.

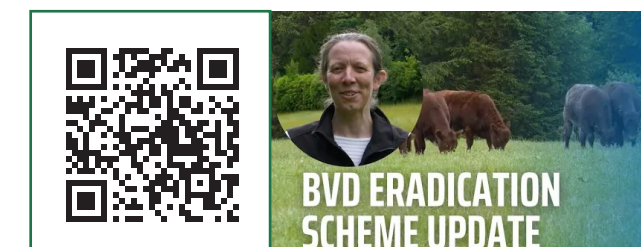
Sarah Balfour, SAC Consulting

More information can be found here:

www.fas.scot/news/bvd-eradication-important-changes-phase-6/
www.gov.scot/publications/bovine-viral-diarrhoea-bvd/

Watch our video where Helen Carty from SRUC Veterinary Services provides an update on the current BVD status in Scotland as we enter Phase 6 of the scheme.

To watch our video, scan the QR code or visit www.youtube.com/FASscot



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.

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/