



News from the Farm Advisory Service:



IRRIGATION LAGOONS

Managing natural resources - Irrigation lagoons

As our climate changes and we experience more extreme weather patterns, becoming more resilient and efficient with water use on farm can be critical to managing drier spells on your land. In this video we speak to Ben and Josh Gray of Fenton Farm, and Saul Gardener of the Scottish Carp Group about irrigation lagoons, which can help store water on farm to then be used during dry periods.

To find this video scan the QR code below or search for Scotland's Farm Advisory Service on YouTube.



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Support for improving nutrient efficiency

Explore controlled-release fertilisers and urease and nitrification inhibitors to improve nitrogen use efficiency with a tailored nutrient management plan.

Nitrogen fertilisers provide essential nutrients to improve grass and crop growth. However, they must be used appropriately to avoid negative environmental impacts and high costs for farmers and crofters. Fortunately, there are different ways to mitigate these effects.

A controlled-release fertiliser releases nutrients gradually into the soil. Inhibitors such as urease inhibitors and nitrification inhibitors are compounds added to a nitrogen-based fertiliser to reduce losses when the fertiliser is applied to the crop. Both extend the time the active nitrogen component of the fertiliser remains in

the soil and if used correctly, they will improve nitrogen use efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Farm Advisory Service can help you improve your nitrogen use efficiency, reduce your carbon footprint, and mitigate the effects of high fertiliser costs by creating a tailored nutrient management plan. Get funded up to £1,000 to bring in an expert adviser you trust to prepare a nutrient management plan for your business.

Up to £2,000 of funding is available through FAS to combine this with another special advice option, such as resilience planning. For more information and to apply for funding, visit www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/ or contact FAS at advice@fas.scot or **0300 323 0161**.

Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) - Sheep interventions

Scotland aims to become a 'global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture'. By improving general animal health, it will result in better production efficiency and welfare. Five interventions are directed towards sheep with a standard cost of £250 per intervention (regardless of flock size), you can claim up to two. If completing these interventions, the work must be carried out by 31st December 2024 and claims must be made by 28th February 2025 via the Rural Payments website.

Sheep options

- **Scab** - A group of around 12 sheep would need to be blood sampled (depending on size of flock).
- **Iceberg diseases** – A transthoracic ultrasound scanning machine would be used to diagnose OPA in live sheep. A postmortem can also be chosen. Maedi Visna/Johnes/Contagious Lymphadenitis/Border Disease – Around 12 blood samples should be taken per management group for testing for exposure to these diseases. A faeces sample can also be taken to diagnose Johnes in a flock or individual.
- **Lameness** – Veterinary lameness assessment, e.g. Interdigital dermatitis, footrot, contagious ovine digital dermatitis (CODD).
- **Liver Fluke/Roundworms** – faecal/blood testing can both be carried out to detect whether there are any signs of fluke or roundworms. Around 10-15 individuals would need to be tested at random from each management group. The best time to test is mid-summer through to early autumn when the worm burden is high.

Post drench efficiency testing can also be claimed through PSF funding.

In summary using this funding will increase efficiency and production of your flock, which in turn will lower your carbon footprint. Speak to your advisor or vet about the best option(s) for your croft/farm.

Laura MacGregor, SAC Consulting

To read our full article, please visit:

www.fas.scot/article/preparing-for-sustainable-farming-sheep-interventions/

Free events



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.

Ayrshire Women in Agriculture Visit to 'We Hae Meat'

Girvan, 23rd July, 10:30am - 2:00pm

Deer Farming at Reddie Hill Farm

Auchtermuchty, 30th July, 10:30am - 3:00pm

Farm wildlife walks



Farm Wildlife Walks returns for a new series of meetings this summer and autumn! Aimed at promoting grass roots, nature focused, farm discussion, the initiative has come to its third year and has an expanded roster of new farm businesses and locations onboard.

In terms of format, the meetings normally include a guided tour of the host business, highlighting unique habitats, species and the management practices that go into maintaining and enhancing the farmed landscape for nature. Past years have included discussions around low cost/high value actions for nature, farming on a designated nature site, reintroductions and preparing and managing Nature Restoration Fund and Agri-Environment Climate Schemes contracts. The events are also an excellent networking opportunity, often putting you in front of the people and organisations making positive change happen.

So whether you are starting off in the conservation conversation or a seasoned enthusiast, there is something for everyone – from regenerative farming to high nature value principles, the Farm Wildlife Walks are for you!

Look out for updates on the FAS website at www.fas.scot/events or events in your area and you can book onto the first meeting now.

Date/Month	Location
24th July	Dalmellington, Ayrshire
August	Chirnside, Scottish Borders Dumfriesshire Kintyre Aberdeenshire
10th September	Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway
11th September	Dervaig, Isle of Mull
September	Sitrlingshire East Lothian

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 £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



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