

One-to-one advice and grant support for Scottish crofters



Helping crofting businesses to be successful in a competitive environment

Regardless of land size or business stage, the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) can help croft owners across Scotland to grow their business, increase profitability, improve sustainability and avoid the common pitfalls to success.

It does this through Government grants – worth up to £3,700 – that can be used for business development support and one-to-one expert advice in specialist areas*.

Benefit from:

- expert advice tailored to the specific needs of your business;
- subsidised access to specialist support;
- an understanding of how you are performing compared with similar crofts;
- one-to-one mentoring guidance from an experienced crofter or farmer in your chosen sector.



* Terms and conditions apply. See www.fas.scot for full details.

Mentoring for crofters

A FAS-supported mentorship helped new crofter, Billy Matheson, to find the confidence he needed to take on the challenge of rearing animals.

For many years, Billy Matheson worked on offshore oil rigs as an engineer. Wary of the work and keen to try something new, Billy decided to move back home to the Isle of Lewis and try his hand at crofting. New to the industry and in need of animals and advice, Billy sought the help of Paul Rowston, a local livestock farmer, to be his mentor through FAS.

Billy is now successfully managing a small sheep croft.



“

It [mentoring] gives you a foundation to build from... I know I'll be prepared to deal with whatever problems arise.

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Billy Matheson, The Croft

One-to-one support services and funding available through FAS

Mentoring for new entrants to farming

Up to 4 days' one-to-one consultancy time with a personal mentor.

Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMP)

Commission an adviser to undertake a confidential assessment of your business and help develop plans for the future.

Up to £1,200 available for support.

*Funding covers 80% of total costs.

The remaining 20% and VAT is covered by the participating business. Costs are proportional to business size (i.e. an ILMP

for a smaller business may cost less and so the 20% covered by the business is a smaller contribution).

Specialist advice

Bring in an expert to take a deeper look at specific issues of concern. Up to £1,000 funding for public good advice and £800 for business efficiency advice

Carbon audits

Identify where performance improvements and financial savings can be made. Up to £500 per audit, per year.