

Opportunities Beyond the Farm Gate

If you are considering stepping back from farming you may be wondering what you would do instead. Here are some things to think about.

Skills you might not realise you have

Working on a farm gives you a broad skill set and work ethic that is attractive to many employers and should not be underestimated. For example:

- Time management
- Problem solving
- 'Can do' attitude
- Hard working
- Multi-tasking



Joint ventures

Working with another farmer or land owner in a joint venture is a way of continuing to have some management input in a farming business without having to provide all of the capital. NFU Scotland have set up a Joint Venture Hub. For more details visit www.nfus.org.uk/policy/joint-venture-hub.aspx

Remaining Self Employed?

Some people like to remain self-employed and take on contract or casual work.

Your accountant will be able to advise on any tax implications, such as whether you will need to be VAT registered.

Also consider things like the insurance cover you will require.



Try something different!

- Make use of the contacts you have within the industry, contractors or suppliers, but don't be afraid to branch out into other types of work.
- Check with your local college to see what courses, including evening or part time, are available. This could let you develop the skills that you already have in another direction.
- Funding for courses may be available depending on the course and your circumstances.
- Get an overview of what work is out there on the many employment websites that are available.

Working for someone else

If you have worked for yourself for many years it is easy to focus on the things you think you may lose when you become an employee—a degree of freedom and flexibility for instance. However don't lose sight of the many advantages that you will see too:

- Regular income
- Regular hours
- Employment benefits including paid holiday and pension contributions
- More time with family and friends
- Less stress: leave work behind you at the end of the day



What could you do?

The possibilities are limitless, whether you want to remain working in the agricultural sector, or fancy something totally different. Here are just some of the things people go on to:

<i>Stockperson</i>	<i>Land Agent</i>
<i>Storeman</i>	<i>AI Technician</i>
<i>Forklift Driver</i>	<i>Agronomist</i>
<i>Farm Assurance Assessor</i>	<i>Farm Manager</i>
<i>SGRPID Officer</i>	<i>Arable Operator</i>
<i>Livestock Fieldsman</i>	<i>Farm Foreman</i>
<i>Accountant</i>	<i>Service Engineer</i>
<i>Agricultural Consultant</i>	<i>Tractor Driver</i>
<i>Excavator Operator</i>	<i>GFW</i>
<i>Forester</i>	<i>Dairyperson</i>
<i>Technical Sales Manager</i>	<i>HGV Driver</i>
<i>Plant Breeding Technician</i>	<i>Shepherd</i>
<i>Foot Trimmer</i>	<i>Scanner</i>



National Advice Hub
T: 0300 323 0161
E: advice@fas.scot
W: www.fas.scot

Formalising your skills

You may wish to gain recognition for your skills and experience by gaining a qualification. Many short courses and qualifications are available.

www.lantra.co.uk

www.sruc.ac.uk/courses

<https://www.citb.co.uk/courses-and-qualifications/>

Working in Construction



Farmers have many skills, particularly around the use of plant and machinery, that make them well suited to the construction industry. There are two key things to consider:

Tax

Under HMRC's Construction Industry Scheme (CIS) contractors deduct money from a subcontractor's payment and pass it to HMRC. The deductions count as advance payments towards the subcontractor's tax and National Insurance. Subcontractors should register with HMRC otherwise the deductions taken by the contractor will be at a higher rate.

For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/what-you-must-do-as-a-cis-subcontractor/how-to-register>

Qualifications

Most contractors/employers in the construction industry will require anyone working on their site to have a valid Construction Skills Certification Scheme or 'CSCS' card. As well as having an appropriate qualification for the specific activity, you must also have a basic Health & Safety qualification and pass an 'Operative Level Health, Safety & Environment Test'.

To find out more or apply for a card go to:

<https://www.cscs.uk.com/applying-for-cards/>



Always view change as an opportunity!

