

Farm Advisory Service

One-to-one advice and funding stakeholder pack: Autumn 2024



**Farm
Advisory
Service**



Support for farmers, crofters and livestock in a changing climate



Welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of the FAS stakeholder pack.

In this edition, we provide an update on the high rates of uptake for Carbon Audits, FAS is now at capacity for the year, but the PSF is still available. It is fantastic to see the Scottish farming community so engaged and informed and a testament to organisations such as yourself for helping spread the word about the FAS services.

We detail how an Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP) can provide new entrants to farming with a holistic view of their business, resources and plans and help set them on the path to sustainability and profitability.

You will also find articles about the Whole Farm Plan, the importance of considering ammonia and manure management to mitigate the consequences of ammonia deposition, and ways to improve nitrogen use efficiency. You will also hear from new entrant Carol Glennie about the value of mentoring.

Look out for links to our short [stakeholder pack survey](#).

Help spread the word by sharing this pack's contents with your networks and contacts!

1. Stakeholder update: (Funding support information)



Pause on Carbon Audits

Since July 2024, The Farm Advisory Service (FAS) has received a strong uptake in Carbon Audits. To allow the service to manage this high demand, and the Scottish Government to adjust available resources, new applications for FAS Carbon Audits were paused on 23 September 2024. Existing applications will be processed and honoured as usual.

This pause will allow time to process outstanding applications, and a further update on the next steps will be shared in due course. Farmers and crofters seeking assistance with Carbon Audits after 23 September can apply through Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) and advice on carrying out a Carbon Audit is available on the FAS website.

The strong uptake in FAS Carbon Audits demonstrates the credibility of FAS Carbon Audits and the strong relationship FAS has with the sector.

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands Mairi Gougeon said:

"I am delighted to see the current high demand for FAS Carbon Audits from farmers and crofters.

FAS has played a central role in supporting farmers and crofters in preparing for the Whole Farm Plan. This includes providing easy access to information and updates, support for Carbon Audits, and Specialist Advice on biodiversity and soil nutrition. Seeing high uptake of this support means farmers and crofters are engaged and informed as we move towards our ambitions for the Whole Farm Plan in 2025, and I thank every farmer and crofter who has been involved.

Carbon audits play a key role in Scotland becoming a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture. While applications to FAS Carbon Audits are paused, I would encourage farmers and crofters to access the resources available to them through the PSF and FAS resources."



1. Stakeholder update: (Funding support information)



Pause on Carbon Audits

Additional Support & Information:

[Preparing for Sustainable Farming \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org)

[Preparing For The Future | Helping farmers in Scotland | Farm Advisory Service \(fas.scot\)](https://fas.scot)

[How to Get Started with Carbon Audits | Information helping farmers in Scotland | Farm Advisory Service \(fas.scot\)](https://fas.scot)

Further questions:

If you have any further questions, you can contact the advice line by emailing advice@fas.scot or by calling 0300 3230161.

Further support with your Carbon Audit through PSF is also available from your nearest RPID Area Office.



2. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)



Advice and support responding to the Scottish Government's Whole Farm Plan

Farmer-led groups recommended the Whole Farm Plan to support farmers and crofters in taking a holistic view of their businesses. By establishing your current performance and activities, you can identify opportunities for improvement and work towards greater productivity and profitability, positioning your business to contribute to meeting Scotland's climate and nature targets.

If you are a farmer or crofter in Scotland and looking to receive Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments, you will have to demonstrate preparations for the Whole Farm Plan by 15 May 2025. You will need to start carrying out at least two plans or audits for your business, intended to review and baseline your current land and livestock management practices. Options include; a carbon audit, biodiversity audit, soil analysis, animal health and welfare plan or an integrated pest management plan. In addition, you will have to demonstrate that you are considering appropriate actions and/or management changes personal to your business that can be implemented to ensure your future agricultural activities are sustainable and deliver Scotland's Vision for Agriculture. ✂

Up to £5,860 of Government funding is available for one-to-one advice through the Farm Advisory Service to help you increase the profitability and sustainability of your farming business. Our ['preparing for the future'](#) page has a number of resources to help you respond and more information about the [Scottish Government's Whole Farm Plan](#).

235 words

3. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)



Funded support for new entrants to farming: Integrated Land Management Plans

If you are new to farming and have set up or become head of a business in the last five years, an Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP) can provide a holistic approach to ensure your farm or croft remains sustainable and profitable for the years ahead.

Funded through the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) and delivered by a qualified advisor, this support offers a comprehensive assessment and plan tailored to your business.

'An ILMP provides new farmers or crofters an opportunity to look at their business from the ground up and determine the most appropriate enterprises to fit the location, land capability, available resources, and their vision for the new business. It explores diversification enterprises that could boost the overall viability and sustainability of the business, as well as signposting to further information, training, and available grants. An ILMP can look at these aspects, and where appropriate, offer action points and further Specialist Advice to take the business forward.' – Christine Beaton, Senior Rural Business Management & Economics Consultant (SAC Consulting) ✂

Up to £2,000 is available for new entrants to cover the full cost of an ILMP. Find out more and apply at www.fas.scot/integrated-land-management-plans-ilmps/ or contact advice@fas.scot or 0300 323 0161.

210 words

4. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)

Ammonia and Manure Management

Ammonia is a colourless, pungent-smelling gas, both naturally occurring and man-made. Agricultural emissions related to air quality are dominated by ammonia, and agriculture accounts for around 90% of total ammonia emissions in Scotland.

Ammonia reacts with other pollutants in the atmosphere that can be harmful to the environment and human health. Ammonia deposition can disrupt ecosystems, leading to a loss of biodiversity, while runoff can contaminate waterways, affecting water quality. As awareness of ammonia's impact grows, regulations on emissions may tighten. Implementing proactive measures can help farmers adapt to any future policy change.

Improved livestock and manure management, as well as optimised fertiliser use, are important considerations for any farm or croft. How we manage these resources can influence the level of ammonia emitted. Low-emission spreading equipment and covering slurry stores are just a few methods to help reduce emissions.

Specialist advice provided through the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) covers topics relating to soil and nutrient management and animal welfare. For more information and to apply for funding, visit www.fas.scot/advice-grants/. For advice on which options to choose or help finding an adviser contact FAS at advice@fas.scot or 0300 323 0161.

5. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)

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 (FAS) 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 £1,600 to bring in an expert adviser you trust to prepare a nutrient management plan for your business.

Up to £3,200 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.

6. Text for your newsletter: (Funding support information)



The value of funded mentoring

Are you a new entrant to farming or crofting and looking for support through the early growth-years of your business? The Farm Advisory Service (FAS) Mentoring support connects you to an experienced and skilful mentor who can guide you through the vital set-up of your business.

If you are looking for general support or a mentor with specific experience such as, the food and drink industry, finance and business planning, biodiversity or animal welfare, the FAS will help you to identify the right mentor.

Carol Glennie from Whitemyre Farm worked with her mentor in 2023 and states that the support was an “incredibly helpful opportunity - having a mentor has been the single most beneficial aspect to learning how to run the farm I inherited. I'm honestly not sure where I'd be without that mentor experience”.

The feedback from mentees is very positive. 99% of participants who used the service would recommend it to others. 94% of mentees stated that they will implement all actions recommended by their mentor; and 98% rated the mentors working practices as excellent or good.

To apply for funded mentoring support contact FAS at advice@fas.scot or 0300 323 0161. More information can be found on the FAS website: www.fas.scot/advice-grants/.



209 words

One-to-one mentoring for a new entrant to farming case study: Carol Glennie, Whitemyre Farm

Carol always knew she was happiest when working with animals on her Grandad's farm and now she is running Whitemyre Farm. Here, Carol explains how the hands-on advice she received through the FAS mentoring program was invaluable in complementing her theoretical knowledge and increasing her confidence.

[Download now](#)

7. Text for your newsletter: (Case studies)



One-to-one mentoring for a new entrant to farming case study: Danielle Troy, 10 Acres Farm

Though Danielle had been familiar with farming since childhood, it wasn't until she and her partner relocated to a small farm in the Scottish Borders that she realised the extent of what there was still to learn. Danielle explains how a local shepherd who understood small scale farming provided mentoring through the FAS mentoring program, sharing knowledge and helping to build confidence.

[Download now](#)



Images to use with newsletter text/online



Suggested X post & image to share



The Whole Farm Plan will support farmers and crofters in taking a holistic view of their businesses.



📢 @FASscot can support you to prepare for the future and increase the profitability and sustainability of your #ScottishFarming business ➡ <https://www.fas.scot/preparing-for-the-future/> ✂️

Suggested X post & image to share



Growing awareness around the impact of agricultural ammonia emissions may lead to tighter regulations. 🤔🌊✂️

@FASScot can support #ScottishFarming businesses to be proactive and adapt to future policy changes through its nutrient management option → www.fas.scot/advice-grants/

Suggested Tweet & image to share



Get a plan for your new #ScottishFarming business that fits its location, land and resources; and explore diversification options, training, grants and advice! 🌱

New entrants can get funded up to £2k to cover the full cost of an ILMP through @FASScot 📌

<http://www.fas.scot/integrated-land-management-plans-ilmps/>



Suggested Tweet & image to share



Improve your nitrogen use efficiency, mitigate high fertiliser costs 💰 and reduce your carbon footprint 🌱 with a @FASscot nutrient management plan.

Up to £3.2k is now available for two topics of specialist advice for all #ScottishFarming businesses ➡

www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/



Posts to share on LinkedIn and Facebook



The Whole Farm Plan will support farmers and crofters in taking a holistic view of their businesses. 🧑🏫 🚗 🐄

📢 @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service - FAS can support you to prepare for the future and increase the profitability and sustainability of your #ScottishFarming business ➡

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Get a plan for your new #ScottishFarming or #Crofting business that fits its location, land and resources and explore diversification options, training, grants and advice! 🐄 💡

📢 New entrants can get funded up to £2k to cover the full cost of an ILMP through @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service - FAS 👉

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Visit our website:
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