

Farm Advisory Service

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



**Farm
Advisory
Service**



Support for farmers, crofters and livestock in a changing climate



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

This edition focuses on how grant-funded specialist advice through FAS can support farmers and crofters in Scotland and protect the environment in various ways. We look at the benefits of a soil and nutrient management plan, introducing agroforestry on your land, getting expert advice on water pollution prevention and control, and exploring opportunities for Biodiversity Net Gain (BGN).

We also touch on how fully funded mentoring through FAS can guide new entrants through the vital setup of their business, hearing from Carol Glennie about how the FAS mentoring service supported her when she inherited Whitemyre Farm .

Look out for links to our short [stakeholder pack survey](#) – designed to gather your feedback on what you'd like to see more or less of in the future.

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

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

Get your soil and nutrient management plan

Better nutrient use efficiency is a win-win, resulting in financial savings and better protection for the environment.

The Farm Advisory Service (FAS) soil and nutrient management specialist advice option provides £1,000 of funding to enable you to bring in an expert adviser to prepare a nutrient management plan for your business. An adviser can help you to match inputs with nutrient uptake by crops, calculate the requirements for maximum crop yield, and improve the nutrient use efficiency. This can help mitigate the effects of high fertiliser costs and improve soil health.

Over 2,000 farmers have applied for FAS specialist advice since the start of the service, and 98% of users of the specialist advice would recommend the service to others, so why not give it a try?

Up to £2,000 of funding is available for two special advice options through FAS. For advice on the best grant options for your business, help finding an adviser, and to apply for funding, contact FAS at advice@fas.scot or 0300 323 0161. More information can be found on the FAS website at www.fas.scot/advice-grants/.

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

Introduce agroforestry and reap a multitude of benefits for your business

Considering integrating trees into your croft or farming business? Agroforestry is a holistic approach that integrates trees and shrubs into traditional farming systems.

This combination of agriculture and forestry diversifies the landscape and income streams. Farmers embracing agroforestry are discovering a multitude of benefits, from enhanced soil health and biodiversity to increased productivity and resilience. Trees' ability to sequester carbon helps mitigate the growing impact of climate change.

By selecting either the woodland management and conservation or biodiversity, habitat and landscape management specialist advice options through the Farm Advisory Service (FAS), an expert adviser can offer guidance on how planting trees can benefit your business.

You can access up to £2,000 of funding through FAS for two specialist advice options. For advice on which options to choose, help finding an adviser, and apply for funding, contact FAS at advice@fas.scot or 0300 323 0161 or visit our website at www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/.

The Integrating Trees Network is a demonstrator network of host crofters and farmers across Scotland. It provides information and support on integrating trees into farming and crofting businesses. Find out about the Network, upcoming events, and other useful information [here](#).

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



The value of mentoring

Are you a new entrant to farming or crofting and looking for support during your business's early growth years? The Farm Advisory Service's (FAS) **fully funded** mentoring support connects you to an experienced and skilled mentor who can guide you through the vital setup of your business.

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

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.

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".

[Read about Carol's experience of FAS mentoring support here.](#)

To apply for 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/.



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



Receive up to £1000 of grant funding for expert advice on water pollution prevention and control on your land

If you want to work in partnership with nature on your farm or croft, funded specialist advice offered through the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) can provide the expert help you need to make this happen.

By receiving advice on '**water pollution prevention and control**', you can improve water quality on your land and the surrounding area. This advice can also include guidance on wetland creation and management, which can increase biodiversity on your land. The support is flexible and can be tailored to your location, size, and type of business.

You can receive funding for up to two topics of specialist advice, meaning you can combine advice on 'water pollution prevention and control' with another option, such as 'biodiversity, habitat and landscape management' or 'soil and nutrient management'.

Up to £1,000 of funding is available per specialist advice topic. Our FAS advisers can talk you through the application process and help you find an appropriate adviser. Get in touch at advice@fas.scot or 0300 323 0161. Find more information at www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/.



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

Biodiversity Net Gain is financially benefitting farmers, crofters and landowners in Scotland

If you have existing natural assets, such as woodlands and areas of high biodiversity value, you could reap financial benefits through Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach that ensures habitats are left in a measurably better state than before a building development took place. This can also include habitat creation and management. BNG credits from certain habitats can be sold directly to developers or brokers, a practice gaining popularity in recent years. There is also the option to rent land long-term (30+ years) to a habitation creation company responsible for habitat management. [Episode 12 of the FAS Natural Capital podcast](#) details BNG options in Scotland.

The Farm Advisory Service (FAS) Specialist Advice can assist you in identifying BNG opportunities on your land, including their creation and potential markets.

Up to £2,000 of funding can be accessed through FAS for two specialist advice plans. For more information about the options and to apply for funding, visit www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/ or contact us at advice@fas.scot or 0300 323 0161.



Images to use with newsletter text/online



Suggested X post & image to share



Maximise crop growth and build resilience to extreme weather with expert advice on #Soil and #NutrientManagement. £1000 of funding is available through @FASscot for a soil and nutrient management plan for your #ScottishFarming business. <https://www.fas.scot/advice-grants>

Suggested X post & image to share



Introduce agroforestry and get many benefits for your #ScottishFarming business, including enhanced soil health and biodiversity and increased productivity and resilience. 🧑🏻💻 Get £1,000 of funding for expert advice on this topic through @FASScot ➡ www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/



Suggested X post & image to share



Improve water quality on your land and work in partnership with nature with @FASscot specialist advice on #Waterpollution prevention and control. 📞 Up to £1,000 of funding is available for your #ScottishFarming business to get expert help in this area 📄 www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/



Suggested X post & image to share



Reap financial benefits for your #ScottishFarming Business with Biodiversity Net Gain. 🖐️ Up to £2k of funding is available for @FASScot specialist advice which can help create opportunities using existing natural assets and identify potential markets 📄 www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/



Posts to share on LinkedIn and Facebook



Maximise crop growth and build resilience to extreme weather with expert advice on #Soil and #NutrientManagement.

£1000 of funding is available through @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service – FAS for a soil and nutrient management plan for your #ScottishFarming business. ➡

<https://www.fas.scot/advice-grants>



Improve water quality on your land and work in partnership with nature with @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service – FAS specialist advice on #Waterpollution prevention and control.

🌿 Up to £1,000 of funding is available for your #ScottishFarming business to get expert help in this area ➡ www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/



Introduce agroforestry and get many benefits for your #ScottishFarming business, including enhanced soil health and biodiversity and increased productivity and resilience. 🌳

Get £1,000 of funding for expert advice on this topic through @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service – FAS ➡ www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/



Reap financial benefits for your #ScottishFarming Business with Biodiversity Net Gain. 🐾

Up to £2k of funding is available for @Scotland's Farm Advisory Service – FAS specialist advice, which can help create opportunities using existing natural assets and identify potential markets ➡ www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/



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Visit our website:
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