



Farm Flood Debris Recovery Grant Scheme Guidance for Businesses

This grant scheme is open to farm holdings directly affected by the flood waters of 18th-20th November 2009 flood event.

Who is funding this support?

This funding is provided by the Northwest Regional Development Agency via the Rural Development Programme for England which is financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the UK Government. This is managed by Cumbria County Council via the Fells and Dales and Solway Border and Eden Local Action Groups.

Eligibility

Farm Holdings - Which are defined as:

A business which depends upon its farming enterprises (excluding diversification) to provide a significant contribution to the household income, and within which the applicant is working on these enterprises for a minimum of 550 hours per year calculated on the basis of the Standard labour requirements quoted in the SAC Farm Management Handbook 2007/2008 (28th edition) and:

- That were trading on 17th November 2009
- Were directly affected by the flood

State Aid

In the agricultural sector the European Commission has set a de minimis limit of €7,500 per beneficiary in any three year period.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you do not receive more than this amount in any three years for this type of aid.

If you are receiving aid for ordinary agricultural operations from a scheme run under the de minimis rules you will be told this by the scheme administrator. You will be told the exact amount of de minimis aid you are to receive and asked for a declaration that this, plus any other amounts you may have received in the previous three year period, will not exceed the €7,500 limit for agricultural operations.

What can you apply for?

Up to 100% of eligible costs can be paid, up to a maximum of £6,800.

The grants will enable farmers to hire specialist equipment or contractors to remove household debris, such as fridges, vehicles and trees, which were washed onto their lands during the floods.

The costs of the removal of gravel are eligible, however it can only be moved onto the edge of a field subject to the necessary consents from the Environmental Agency and Natural England

Any offer will be capped if necessary to ensure that state aid limits will not be exceeded. This is unlikely to affect you unless you have already received significant public funding.

Dates for applications and claims

Applications will be dealt with on a first come first served basis and you should apply as soon as possible. The final date for applications is 31st January 2010.

Final claims must be submitted by 30th June 2010.

What is the process?

An Adviser will help you to complete your application form. There is no charge for assistance from an adviser. You will also need to provide a map of your holding which identifies the flood affected area and a copy of the quotations for the goods / service you intend to purchase.

The adviser will confirm and verify the information and confirm that they consider the project costs reasonable

The adviser has no authorisation to agree funding.

The application is then submitted to the appropriate Local Action Group who will process it and send out an offer letter (or otherwise) within 2 weeks.

You then submit your claim which you would have received with your offer letter. This must be accompanied with the original invoice(s) and bank statement(s), as evidence of defrayal. All original invoices and bank statements will be returned to you once your claim has been processed.

The Local Action Group will aim to pay claims within 30 days of receipt.

What is not covered?

- Recoverable VAT
- Costs that are covered or reasonably could have been covered by insurance
- Removal of Silt from affected land
- Costs of creating access to affected land
- Reinstatement of Fences and boundaries
- Costs associated with the removal of Debris prior to you being issued with your offer letter.
- Costs not associated with the removal of debris from your farm holding
- Charges for your own labour and machinery costs
- Cash payments

Conditions of grant offer

If successful in obtaining a grant you will be required to fulfil the following conditions:

- the grant must be used to fund the removal of debris from land affected by the flooding - it cannot be used as compensation for any loss incurred
- by the 30th of June 2010 to be eligible to receive grant funding your project must be complete and you must have submitted your claim form.
- if the grant was not used as specified in the application and offer we reserve the right to reclaim all or part of the grant claimed
- you agree that the Local Action Group / NWDA may visit the project and that we may require you to provide any further information deemed necessary by the funder
- we reserve the right to audit and monitor the project

Other Support Available

The NWDA via Cumbria Chamber of Commerce has made available additional support which will enable eligible businesses to access specialist advice, funding for training and interest relief.

Funding is also available via Natural England via there Agri-environment Schemes

Contact Natural England: 01768 860700

Environment Agency – 08708 506506

The Addington Fund – 02476690587

Cumbria Community Foundation – 01900 825760

If you have not already done so contact Business Link on 0845 00 66 88