

GRANTS UPDATE

[update 1/12/08: this scheme has been delayed and target dates may not be met]

New capital grants are soon going to be offered by the North West Development Agency. They say on their website <http://www.nwda.co.uk/areas-of-work/people-jobs/rural-economy/rdpe/livestock-progr.aspx> that these will be operational from January 2009, but we suspect farmers may have to wait a little longer than that to get the grants.

Grants are proposed for livestock farms to implement the recommendations of animal health & welfare plans, resource efficiency & energy audits and nutrient management plans. We have no firm details, but if you are planning spending on animal handling pens, cow mats, extending slurry capacity etc. we suggest you wait for a month or two until the scheme details are known if you can.

Other grants are proposed for all rural areas of Cumbria on a wide range of possible projects, but amounts of funding are small for each different option. Many capital grants are proposed at 40%, with training grants at 70%. Due to start later than the livestock grants above. For an outline of what can be funded, read the Cumbria Sub-Regional RDPE Plan <http://www.nwda.co.uk/areas-of-work/people-jobs/rural-economy/rdpe/delivery-of-rdpe-in-the-northw.aspx>

Further details from the office or NWDA 01768 867294