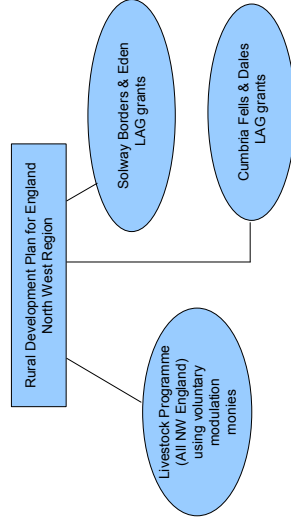


GRANT UPDATE FEBRUARY 2009

Rural Development Programme for England 2009 - 2013

How does it all fit together?

Each Regional Development Agency has designed a different method of support for the needs in their area. In the North West region they have a region-wide programme to support all livestock farmers (including capital grants) see www.livestocknw.co.uk, plus extra grants for farms, forestry, rural businesses and community groups through a series of Local Action Group (LAG) grants. In Cumbria, we have 2 LAG grant organisations. The Fells & Dales area is similar to the previous LEADER area, covering the National Park, Howgills towards Kirkby Stephen and south to the border, (excluding Kendal and Barrow). The Solway Borders & Eden area is the rest of Cumbria, excluding Whitehaven, Workington and Carlisle. The following diagram may help:



LIVESTOCK PROGRAMME

Performance Grants will be administered by the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA). 01768 861306

Performance Grants and Individual Business Advice to Improve:

Animal Health & Welfare

Specialist equipment to improve livestock performance recording; specialist foot health facilities & calf hutches/feeding systems & welfare housing; specialist ventilation; small scale building enhancements; high spec parlour improvements; cow mattresses; heat detection systems; specialist computer software; some cow tracks.

Contact SAC for more details: 0845 604 0535

Resource Efficiency

Rain water recycling; heat recovery systems & specialist crop/feed treatment that save energy; farm scale renewable energy facilities; bulk milk tank upgrades; high spec insulation; incinerators & digesters for carcase disposal; specialist computer software.

Nutrient Management

Items that reduce slurry volumes e.g. roofing middens; separating clean & dirty water or liquid/solids; water course fencing; pollution reduction from run-off; slurry aerator & separators; manure analysis equipment, precision manure/fertiliser equipment; specialised computer software.

Contact Promar for more details: 0870 870 7380

Grant Rates

Up to 40%; Minimum grant £2,000, maximum grant £8,000 per project application; Maximum £12,000/business throughout the scheme. Group applications are acceptable and technical fees can also be grant aided.

Application Procedure:

Before applying you must register with the NW Livestock ICT network if you have a computer and submit an animal health plan, nutrient management plan, resource/energy efficiency audit or business plan. A business plan and a technical plan may be needed where the project cost exceeds £20k.

Also need: Application form, 3 quotes, 3 years audited accounts, signed statement of viability from accountant, confirmation of private funding, map showing location, relevant consent letters.

Application windows with closing dates: 30/6/09; 30/9/09; 31/12/09; 31/3/10 and same quarters in other years until 31/12/12.

Support for Groups in Cumbria

Groups can qualify for grant funding under this programme. In addition the Farmer Network is leading a programme of support for new and existing groups, able to bring in specialists, organise meetings, support study trips etc. The Network is helping to set up 2 monitor farms in Cumbria, with farm demonstrations and meetings. Contact 01768 868615

LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) GRANTS

There are slight differences between what each LAG will consider for funding under the following headings for individual businesses or groups:

Training & advisory services; small scale investment to modernise farm holdings; improving the value of woodland; cooperation; adding value to agricultural and forestry products; investment in small scale renewable energy; farm diversification; micro-enterprise creation & development; eco-tourism/low impact tourism/tourism networks/heritage tourism; basic services for the rural population; conservation of rural heritage; community development – shared assets; low-carbon initiatives; training & information for non-farming & forestry businesses; local development strategies; small scale renewable energy.

Grant rates

Up to 50% for most commercial projects. Up to 100% for non-commercial activity.

Contact:

Fells & Dales: 01768 869533
Solway Borders & Eden: 016973 49212

Other Grants

There are several other grants that may be of interest including:

- Catchment Sensitive Farming Grants – if you are within a catchment sensitive farming area, they occasionally open a grant application window to offer grants to help reduce pollution. Contact Natural England for more details: 01768 860700
- Business start up grants and marketing grants – patchy availability throughout Cumbria, Contact Business Link 0845 006 6 888 info@businesslinknw.co.uk or Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency 01768 891555.
- Sustainable Development Fund. Grants for individuals and groups for projects that you can argue will improve sustainability and benefit the National Park. Capital and revenue grants. Limits are 50% for individual businesses and 75% for groups. Contact 01539 724555 www.lake-district.gov.uk/index/living_in/sustdev_fund.htm
- Neighbourhood Forum grants, available for small community projects (farmer groups may qualify). Contact 01228 606060 www.cumbriacc.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums/grants/default.asp
- Several other grants for community or group activity, available through Cumbria Community Foundation, (some up to 100%) Contact 01900 825760 www.cumbriafoundation.org
- Local Food Grants available to non-profit making groups (Cumbria Farmer Network qualify) from £2,000 - £500,000. Projects have to benefit one of 5 themes. Contact 0845 3 671 671 www.localfoodgrants.org/grants
- Many other charitable foundations etc. Your local Council for Voluntary Service (or CVS) is the best place to help. Contact 01768 800350 www.thirdsectorcumbria.org.uk/support_CumbriaCVS.html

Paul Harper, May 2009