



Farm Productivity Call for Projects November 2016 onwards

Call Open From: 24 November 2016

Contact Details:

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Farm Productivity	
Call Context	To improve farm productivity and create new and increased employment opportunities. As an important and significant economic sector in the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER area, the Programme is keen to support the agricultural sector to grow and become more profitable.
Call Overview	<p>The North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme is continuing with its open call for projects under the Farm Productivity priority. Applications which will improve the overall performance of a holding will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be considered by the Executive Group at the next available meeting once applications are complete.</p> <p>The Programme is primarily looking to support applications for capital projects which will achieve one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new or extended employment opportunities; • Improve the financial sustainability of the farm business (eg: will increase business turnover or increase the profit margin); or • Improve the productivity of the holding ie: produce more, produce new, make better use of resources (time and financial) etc. <p>Applicants must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They meet the basic eligibility criteria as outlined in the Applicants Handbook; • They have read and understood the eligible areas of expenditure within the Programme; • They have considered all other RDPE grant schemes, in particular the Countryside Productivity Scheme and any call made through or linked to the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs); • They can directly link the proposed activity to a wider plan for the holding such as business plan or a whole farm plan; • Any proposed activity results in environmental improvements for the holding or demonstrates best practice wherever possible; and • They can provide a minimum of 60% of the eligible project costs from a private source of funding (eg: own funds). <p>The Programme is also keen to encourage wherever possible and will prioritise applications which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new or extend employment opportunities; • Are innovative in their approach or is trying something new; and • Are collaborative and see two or more farmers / land managers working together. <p>Potential activity looking for LEADER funding could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment to improve the efficiency of use of water, energy, fertilizer, animal feeds etc; • Equipment, technologies or processes which will develop or produce new or higher quality products; • Activity around the development, processing or marketing of agricultural products; or • Equipment, technologies or processes which derive some increase in productivity or financial gain from waste products. <p>This list is not exhaustive and all ideas which contribute to the aim of the call will be considered; however please note the basic eligibility criteria in the Applicant Handbook which includes the types of expenditure which are ineligible for LEADER funding.</p>
Outputs	The strongest applications will create additional employment opportunities as a result of the funded activity, however applications which meet other criteria listed above will also be

	<p>considered.</p> <p>We expect that all the projects supported by the Programme under the Farm Productivity priority will together result in new or extended employment opportunities.</p>
How to Apply	<p>The LEADER Programme operates a two stage application process – an initial Outline Application which will be assessed for its eligibility and completeness, followed by a Full Application.</p> <p>Support in making Outline and Full Applications can be provided by the Programme.</p> <p>It is strongly advisable to contact the Programme directly in advance of making an application to discuss the project and its eligibility.</p> <p>Contact: Amy Thomas Tel: 01439 772700 Email: a.thomas@northyorkmoors.org.uk</p> <p>Outline Applications can be downloaded from www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk and all applicants must ensure they have read the North York Moors, Coast and Hills Applicant Handbook and Guidance Notes prior to completing the form.</p>
Information to Consider Prior To Making An Application	<p>Applications must ensure that all project spend is completed by March 2019. Additional time may be permitted in exceptional circumstances; please discuss any potential requirements with Programme staff.</p> <p>Full Applications are competitive and all decisions on these will be made by the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme Executive Group.</p> <p>Applicants must consider how they will cash flow the project as funding can only be provided on a defrayed expenditure basis. This means that applicants must make the initial expenditure before they can reclaim the funding from the Programme.</p> <p>LEADER will pay the agreed % of all eligible costs within a project, and cannot pay 100% towards a single item within a larger project.</p> <p>Activity and spend related to the project can only occur following confirmation of the Executive Groups decision. This includes ordering or paying a deposit on materials or equipment. The funding of any part of an application retrospectively will not be eligible.</p> <p>The North York Moors, Coast and Hills LDS provides lots of useful information about the priorities of the Programme and the identified needs and opportunities of the area. Pages 10-20 of the LDS may be particularly helpful.</p>
Support	<p>Grant funding is available primarily for capital activity. Applications for revenue funding will be considered on a case by case basis and must offer significant longer term value to the Programme.</p> <p>Minimum grant - £2,500 Maximum grant – none set by Executive Group Maximum Intervention Rate – 40%</p>
Submission Details	<p>Outline Applications (and any supporting documentation that is required) will be accepted on a rolling basis and must be submitted in the proscribed electronic format to Amy Thomas at the above email address otherwise they cannot be accepted. These will be checked to ensure that they are eligible and complete.</p>

The outcome of the Outline Application will be communicated within approx. 2 weeks.

If the Outline Application is eligible to proceed the applicant will then be invited to complete and submit a Full Application Form. Further guidance on completing a Full Application will be made available at this point.

Completed Full Applications will undergo an appraisal process by the LEADER team before being considered by the Executive Group at the next available meeting.