



**Solutions
for Business**

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Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme (FFIS)

FFIS is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and is a scheme of support, developed to help farming, forestry and horticultural businesses in England to become more efficient at using resources. This scheme aims to help make your business more profitable and resilient whilst reducing the impact of farming on the environment.

What can be funded under FFIS?

To be eligible for funding under FFIS the project must fall within one of the following key areas of activity:

Nutrient Management

Improvements in use of farm manures and slurries so as to improve soil quality and reduce reliance on artificial fertiliser. Eligible items include slurry injectors, mechanical slurry separation systems and Global Positioning Systems.

Energy Efficiency

Projects to reduce or recover energy on farm, resulting in a reduction of farm energy bills and carbon dioxide emissions. Eligible items include heat exchangers, gel coolers and ice builders.

Water Resource Management

Rainwater harvesting, recycling and reuse systems to reduce reliance on mains water.

Eligible items include pipework specifically to intercept and divert roof water to a storage facility, rainwater harvesting equipment.

Animal Health and Welfare

Projects which bring about significant improvements in farm animal health and welfare.

Forestry

Projects which improve the economic value of forests through the efficiencies of improved processing and adding value. Eligible items include timber processors, forwarders, forestry trailers, tractor mounted forestry grabs.

Who can apply?

Farmers, foresters, contractors and horticulturalists across England are eligible to apply.



The European Agriculture Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

How to apply

You will need to read the full guidance and complete the application forms available on the RDPE Network website. If you wish to discuss your proposal before completing the forms or if the item you are applying for is not listed in the guidance then please contact your local Defra RDPE delivery team.

If you are applying for equipment under Animal Health and Welfare then you will need to submit a Farm Health Plan. Please discuss this with your local Defra RDPE delivery team as there may be funding available for this in your area.

How much funding is available?

There is £20m available under FFIS until December 2013. The grants are for capital items and the grant rate available is up to 40% in non-upland areas, and up to 50% in upland areas. The maximum grant allowable per applicant business is £25,000. The minimum grant per application is £2,500.

Key Information

- Forms may only be submitted within the application round dates.
- The selection process for FFIS is **competitive** and applications will be appraised against one another for the funds available. This means that there is no guarantee of success and not all projects which are eligible will be awarded a grant.
- **You must not commit to buying any equipment** which is specifically related to this grant application until an Offer Letter has been received.
- Grant is paid in arrears so you will need to demonstrate that you have the ability to bankroll the whole project until such point as the grant is paid to you.

For more information, contact your local Defra RDPE delivery team, addresses available below, or go to the Defra or RDPE Network website.

<http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/funding-sources/farm-and-forestry-improvement-scheme>

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