

November 2017

# RDPE Funding

The latest round of funding for farms and rural businesses has been updated and the Farm Productivity applications are now open

**The Farm Consultancy Group cover large areas of Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Wiltshire and are able to provide support and expertise in applying for EU funding for farms and rural enterprises.**

Below is a brief outline of the types of funding available and final closing dates for applications.

Under the **RDPE Countryside Productivity Scheme** funding can be claimed under 1 of 4 categories of rural business activities

- ⇒ **water resource management and reservoirs**  
Who can apply: arable and horticultural businesses growing, or intending to grow, irrigated crops **Closing date 3 April 2018**
- ⇒ **improving forestry productivity**  
Who can apply: Private forest holders managing at least 10 ha of forest and micro, small, or medium-sized forestry contractor businesses  
**Closing date 3 April 2018**
- ⇒ **adding value to Agri-food**  
Who can apply: processors of primary agricultural or horticultural products. This includes food and drink businesses and farmers including livestock, dairy, arable and horticultural sectors (in rural or urban areas.) **Closing Date 29 June 2018**
- ⇒ **improving farm productivity**  
Who can apply: Farmers (including livestock, dairy, arable and horticultural sectors) **Closing date 3 December 2018**

The grants are for a minimum of £35,000. Grants can cover up to 40% of the eligible costs of a project. If the minimum grant is £35,000, the minimum total eligible cost of a project would therefore be £87,500.

\* **LEADER Funding is still available**

For smaller projects such as cattle crushes, fertilizer or slurry applicators, one pass drills, GPS tracking, cow mattresses, milk vending machines etc. Where the grant minimum is £5000 for up to 40% of the eligible cost of the project.

**The application closing dates are every 2 months until funding runs out.**

**All funding must be agreed with RPA before any item is ordered or purchased.**



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# The FARM CONSULTANCY Group

The Sherborne office of The Farm Consultancy Group covers Dorset, Somerset, West Wilts and East Devon.

The Sherborne office provides a range of business services and help to rural businesses, including technical dairy advice, soil and nutrient management advice, business appraisals, business planning (budgeting and cashflows), BPS and grant funding, farm secretarial services, liaising with banks, accountants and other third parties and specialist discussion groups.

The team consists of experienced farm consultants, rural business administrators and farm secretaries and financial advisors.



# RDPE Funding

THESE ARE EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF PROJECTS THE RDPE ARE LOOKING TO FUND

## Improving efficiency

A dairy business will invest in 2 milking robots, and a robotic silage pusher. The milking robots include sensors to collect data on the health of each cow including milk composition. The new robots will improve monitoring of cow health, labour efficiency, and yield which will improve overall farm efficiency and productivity.



## Introducing innovation

A horticultural business is investing in a robotic weeder to carry out intra-row weeding. The machine uses camera images to distinguish vegetable plants from weeds, then calculates the position of plants and accurately guides hoes to remove the weeds. This reduces the need for chemical treatment and for manual hoeing.



## Improving slurry application

A large-scale dairy farmer will purchase slurry application equipment including inline, real-time nutrient sensor, flow meters and a trailing shoe application system to fit to an existing slurry tanker. This will deliver significant savings on fertiliser, reduce ammonia emissions and mean that cattle can graze treated grassland earlier than with previous, low-trajectory splash plate.



## Introducing Innovative technology

A large-scale pig farmer with an anaerobic digester will install an advanced digestate processing system, including a separator, pumps, centrifuges and filters. This will deliver the ability to separate the fibre fraction and produce a concentrated liquid fertiliser, reducing the need to purchase fertiliser and improving productivity.



## Adding value to felled timber

A private forest holder will invest in firewood processing equipment, a mechanical log splitter and will construct a covered area for storing and seasoning timber. This will add value to the woodland product and improve the productivity of the woodland. The project involves collaboration with local forestry businesses, will achieve wider economic benefits and create 2 new full-time equivalent jobs.



## Making better use of renewable electricity produced on farm

A horticultural grower will purchase a battery storage facility. The grower already has a solar panel installation and this will allow the business to store excess electricity produced during the day and use it through the night to power cold stores rather than importing electricity from the grid. This will deliver significant savings on electricity costs.



## Investment in equipment

A forestry contractor that supplies extraction services will invest in 2 new articulated forwarders with hydraulic cranes. The business has secured agreement from local forest holders to extract a significantly increased volume of timber. This will bring under-managed woodland back into production.



## Meat processing

A meat processing business needs to expand its facilities and processing equipment to meet growing demand for its products. The business works with local suppliers and will offer five year rolling contracts to producers, paying a premium for locally reared livestock, to help them expand their production to meet the demand.



## Investment in collaborative grain processing

A farmer controlled grain storage and trading business is investing in grain cleaning equipment, including an optical grader to remove ergot. The business will install a higher capacity and more efficient grain drier which will reduce fuel use per tonne dried and increase capacity. This will enable the business to provide grain cleaning and drying services to 25 local farm businesses. The project will also install a further 2,000 tonnes of cereal storage to store batches of grain for an additional 12 local farmers. This will increase the turnover and profitability of the business, benefit local farmers and create 1 new full time job.



## Milk Processing

A regional dairy has secured a new contract to supply chilled dairy products with local provenance to a supermarket chain. The business will need to build an extension, buy new processing equipment and install extra refrigerated storage. The dairy will buy milk from additional local suppliers, and pay a premium for the milk needed for this contract. The project will also create new jobs.



Each project needs to fit one or more of the criteria listed - the more criteria it can fulfil, the more likely the funding will be approved.

Improve productivity	Introduces new processes, techniques or equipment to improve productivity or resource management
Enhance resilience	Makes your farming operation more resilient to climate change and reduces its environmental impact
Improve efficiency	Improves nutrient management or optimises field and livestock operations
Introduce innovation	Adopts innovative farm technologies
Grow your business	Increases turnover or profitability, or creates new jobs
Encourage collaboration and partnerships	Creates new links between businesses and shares resources