



Facts & Figures



Agrilink partner

James Hutton Institute



Budget for advisory

390,000,000¹ €



Number of farms

217,000²

A brief history of national/regional farm advisory policies

- Farm advisory services are treated as devolved policy in UK.
- Advisory services were privatized in UK in 1980s.
- Public funding is still provided by DEFRA; with NGOs playing an important role in the supply of services.

Farm Advisory Services are treated as devolved policy matters and as such, all 4 countries that make up the UK (Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales) have their own rural development program setting their own priorities. This also means there is no overarching national policy concerning rural policy or FAS.

In England, DEFRA (Department for

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) is the responsible body for FAS England with Natural England being the main body to deliver advisory services. Funding is derived from EU and Westminster, with varied organisations responsible for advice, including NGOs, farmer groups and from both the public and private sectors.

Key objectives of current Regional farm advisory policies

- Environmental issues are the key objectives of advisory policies in England.
- This includes water protection and sustainable use of pesticides.

The main aim of the current policies is:

- To "help farms understand and meet the requirements of Cross Compliance, Greening (the Basic Payments Scheme) and the European Directives on both water protection and sustainable pesticide use." Key aims of FAS England are to provide advice on cross compliance, greening requirements, the Water Framework Directive and the Sustainable Use (of Pesticides) Directive;

- FAS is composed of a network of qualified, independent advisers contracted to DEFRA. Industry stakeholders such as the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association are consulted to deliver activities. A free helpline, newsletters and technical articles as well as workshops are organized to deliver advice.

¹ Euro millions. Figure from 2018 reporting statistics, available in DEFRA (2018), Agriculture in the United Kingdom, report available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/848641/AUK_2018_09jul19a.pdf [Accessed 10 Jan 2019]

² Figure available for 2017 (Ibid).

Overview of advisory public policies and of their impact on regimes

The table below showcases the main advisory policy tools and their impacts on the advisory regimes in the region/country of study. Agrilink partners identified the most relevant policy tools as well as their funding, competent authority in charge

and type of instrument. The effects of the policy tools in the advisory regime of the regions/country are described in terms of boundaries, identities, attributes, financing and control.

