



**PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 97**

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**Farming Advice Service (FAS) in England**

Farm advice in the UK is devolved to the level of the four nation states (Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales). In England the Farming Advice Service (FAS) is administered and delivered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) who contract to a network of independent advisors from agricultural consultancies, research organisations and industry stakeholders such as the National Farmers Union. They work closely with Natural England and a partnership body (Campaign for the Farmed Environment) to deliver advice. The Rural Payments Agency is then responsible for administering the relevant subsidies and loans to farmers, landowners and other agricultural partners. The priorities for FAS England include advice on Cross Compliance, Greening requirements, the Water Framework Directive and the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive. Relevant advice is delivered through a free helpline, email service, the organisation of events and training days, workshops, technical newsletters and articles in farming press. There are a myriad number of advisory suppliers in England and as such, competition is high for renewal of existing programmes and financing new initiatives. The UK is currently in a transition period after leaving the EU with an Agricultural Transition Plan in effect from 2021 to 2027. This 7-year period will allow for previously funded schemes to be completed after 01 January 2021 and for newer schemes to be phased in. One of the biggest changes is likely to come from the removal of Direct Payments, with reductions taking place during 2021, and new schemes such as the Environment Land Management scheme to be introduced with an emphasis on farmers being rewarded for producing public goods.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



## ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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All the Practice Abstracts prepared by the AgriLink project in the EIP-AGRI common format can be found here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers>