



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 98

AUTHOR(S):

Christina Noble, Lee-Ann Sutherland

James Hutton Institute

Farm Advisory Service (FAS) in Scotland

Farm advice in the UK is devolved to the level of the four nation states (Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales). In Scotland the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) is administered through the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) that is jointly funded by the Scottish Government and the EU. However, it will become a fully domestic programme following the UK's exit from the EU with a transition between 2021 and 2024 during which the SRDP FAS will have a more direct link to previous EU-FAS provisions with the wish "to enable the continued operation of current CAP schemes and policies".

The Scottish FAS has been contracted to SAC Consulting, a commercial arm of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and Ricardo Energy and Environment, a global consultancy company. SAC Consulting are responsible for the "one to many" programme, whilst Ricardo Energy and Environment deliver a "one to one" service. Together they share the mandate to provide advice to all farmers with an emphasis on supporting the profitability and sustainability of farm businesses and offering a separate service to small farms and crofts.

Their main methods of delivering advice include a website, in-person small group events and a dedicated telephone service. Whilst the remit to deliver advice to all farmers is extensive, critics of the service suggest the advice delivered is broad and is missing expertise. This is reflected in the training topics for both organisations covering a wide array of topics as their client base extends to not only farmers but other land managers and land users.

CONTACTS:

lee-ann.sutherland@hutton.ac.uk

Christina.Noble@hutton.ac.uk

www.hutton.ac.uk

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Scotland

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Note: Please consult the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) 2021 available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-rural-development-programme--...>



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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www.agrilink2020.eu

twitter.com/agrilink2020

pierre.labarthe@inrae.fr

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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>