



## 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 farmers 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 themes.

#### ***Energy Efficiency***

Projects to reduce or recover energy on farm resulting in a reduction of farm energy bills and the farm's carbon footprint. Eligible items include heat exchangers, solar screens for glasshouses and voltage optimisers.

#### ***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.

#### ***Water Resource Management***

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

Eligible items include water storage and filtering systems along with intercept and diversion systems to aid rainwater harvesting and recycling.

#### ***Animal Health and Welfare***

Projects which bring about significant improvements in farm animal health and welfare. This includes mobile handling systems and cluster flushing systems.

#### ***Forestry***

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

### Who can apply?

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



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



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## How to apply

You will need to read the full guidance available in the Applicant Handbook and complete the Application Form available on the RDPE Network website.

You will need to submit all the supporting documentation as set out in the Handbook with your application.

### How much funding is available?

There is around £10 m available under this round of FFIS. The grant funding is 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 £35,000.

The minimum grant per application is £2,500.

## Key information

- At the latest, forms must be submitted by 04 April 2014. Defra will start processing the applications as soon as they are received so you are strongly advised to apply early.
- The selection process for FFIS is **competitive**. This means that there is no guarantee of success and not all projects which are eligible will be awarded grant.

- **You must not commit to buying any equipment** which is specifically related to this grant application until a Grant Offer Letter has been received.
- Grant is paid in arrears so you will need to consider whether you have the ability to bankroll the whole project until such point as the grant is paid to you. If your application is successful then we must receive your claim for grant by 31 January 2015 so please ensure you have sufficient time to purchase and install your equipment once notified that your application has been successful.

For more information,  
contact the Defra RDPE  
FFIS team helpline  
on 0300 060 4761  
or email [FFIS3@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FFIS3@defra.gsi.gov.uk)  
or go to the RDPE  
Network website

[www.rdpnetwork.org.uk](http://www.rdpnetwork.org.uk)