

Business Update - The Farming Investment Fund

Information correct as at 09:00am on 19.11.2021

- Grant schemes launched on 16th November
- FETF targets smaller schemes with predetermined levels of grant
- Larger FTF only available for water management at the moment
- Grants for improving productivity and adding value to be announced in due course

The Farming Investment Fund was launched on the 16th November 2021. It is divided into two schemes:

- The Farming Equipment & Technology Fund (FETF) which provides smaller grants to improve business performance
- The Farming Transformation Fund (FTF) which will support larger investments

Farming Equipment & Technology Fund (FETF)

The grant offers an express list of capital items with predetermined values, loosely based on the Countryside Productivity Small Grant (CPSG) scheme.

Grants are available for farmers, horticulturalists, forestry owners and contractors to the industry with businesses registered in England.

What is available?

The grant has a broader list of available items than the CPSG with 120 different capital purchases. A full list of eligible items and values is available [here](#). The minimum grant value has been reduced to £2,000 making access to the support easier, with the maximum grant value increasing to £25,000 broadening the list of available items.

Farmers can apply for a total of £50,000 over the scheme's duration. For example, if there were two rounds you could apply for £25,000 in each round, with any funding from the CPSG scheme not counting towards the total. However, items purchased under other grant schemes cannot be purchased again under the new scheme.

How to apply

Applications must be made via the FETF portal which can be found [here](#), but it is essential that businesses are registered with RPA before applying via the portal. Applications must be made before noon on the 7 January 2022 with claims made before the 30 September 2022.

Farming Transformation Fund (FTF)

The FTF has three main themes:

1. Water Management
2. Improving Farm Productivity
3. Adding Value

The Water Management Grant is the only theme currently available, with other themes and grants becoming available in the coming months (no details currently available).

This grant is only available to arable and horticultural businesses in England.

The scheme has three core priorities, scoring projects against the criteria of productivity, water sustainability and the impact on the environment. Projects that demonstrate an improvement of farm productivity through more efficient use of water for irrigation and security of water supplies for crop irrigation will be supported.

What are the grants for?

- Capital items that will improve farm productivity through efficient water usage
- To secure crop irrigation through the creation of on-farm water reservoirs
- The adoption of best practice irrigation application equipment

A list of eligible costs may be found [here](#).

What funding is available?

A minimum grant of £35,000 is available, with a maximum grant of £500,000. Grants can cover up to 40% of the eligible costs of a project. The minimum total eligible cost of a project would therefore be £87,500.

How to apply

Applicants must use the [online checker](#) as an initial indication of the project fit, if the project is deemed eligible further online questions are answered followed by a submission of interest if the criteria are met. Full applications are to be made via RPA account. The eligibility checker is available from 16 November until 12 January 2022.

Projects meeting the scoring criteria will then be invited to submit a full application with the deadline closing on 30 June 2022.

For further discussion or to help with any questions that you may have, please contact Consultant Support on consultantsupport@kiteconsulting.com or 01902 851007 / 07542 403225