



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



Rural Development Programme for England 2014-2020- LEADER

Yorkshire Dales Local Action Group

Grants to support investments in Upland Farming

Upland Farm Capital Grant Scheme

LEADER Area	Yorkshire Dales
Grant Reference	SP2_01
Date Grant Opens	Monday May 16th 2016
Deadline for submissions of Outline Applications	Monday July 25th at 17:00 hours
Maximum Amount LEADER will support	40% of eligible costs
	Min/Max: £2,500 to £35,000

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER Outline Application Form and guidance notes are available to download from our website. www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk

Please read [LEADER Applicant Handbook](#), available to download from our website, as this explains how grant applications are assessed and how to meet the terms of a grant funding agreement if an application is successful.



Contents

Background to LEADER	3
Upland Farm Capital Grant Scheme	3
Scope of this Grant	4
Who can Apply.....	4
What can be supported	4
Areas and activity we cannot give grant for	5
Grant Funding Available.....	5
Outputs we expect to see	5
Before making an Application	6
How to Apply	6
Deadline for the Outline Application	6
Moving to a Stage 2 Full Application.....	7
For More Information Contact.....	7



Background to LEADER

LEADER is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The Managing Authority for LEADER is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

LEADER is a French acronym which roughly translates as 'Liaison among Actors in Rural Economic Development'.

The Government has allocated £138 million of rural development funding for delivery through 80 Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the LEADER Programme. A Local Action Group (LAG) is made up of people from the local community and the public and private sector. The LAG decides which projects they will fund in the area.

Defra has awarded the Yorkshire Dales LAG £2.23 million to support local priorities within the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area, as identified in the [Local Development Strategy](#).

Upland Farm Capital Grant Scheme

The vision of the Yorkshire Dales Local Development Strategy is:

“To grow a sustainable rural economy by developing diverse economic growth and creating sustainable communities, capitalising on the areas’ internationally recognised distinctive environment, landscape, culture and heritage.”

The Local Action Group aims;

- To support and build on a distinctive, living, working and cultural landscape that tells the ongoing story of generations of people interacting with their environment and underpins a flourishing local economy.
- To ensure farmers, landowners and other land-based businesses are managing profitable enterprises based on the sustainable use of the natural resources, landscape and cultural heritage of the Dales, providing jobs and other essential services to the local and regional economies.

The Yorkshire Dales Local Development Strategy identifies upland farm business as an important sector for successful rural economic growth.

The Yorkshire Dales Local Action Group (LAG) invites applications for capital investments and business development grants from new and existing micro and small farming businesses, including social enterprises located within the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area.



Scope of this Grant

The aim of the grant is to improve the sustainability of upland land management in the Yorkshire Dales.

The purpose of this grant is to support projects which require capital assistance to:

- Develop the resilience, profitability and sustainability of farming business through collaboration, added value local product, new technology and research;
- Support innovation, entrepreneurial activity and diversification in order to improve quality and profitability;
- Support the development of small scale bio/renewable energy generating capacity.

This grant is for businesses requiring funding for projects starting from December 2016.

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER Local Action Group wishes to fund applications that will:

- Grow or expand an existing rural business

We will give **most priority** to those applications that:

- Create new jobs in the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area;
- Demonstrate collaboration between farm businesses.

Who can Apply

- ✓ Upland farming businesses and holdings in the LEADER area.

Upland farm businesses are defined for this grant as:

A holding that is in the majority designated Less Favoured Area and contains designated Severely Disadvantaged Area.

What can be supported

The following are examples of the types of activity that can be supported.

- Equipment and machinery to improve the efficiency of the use of energy, water, fertiliser and other direct inputs (for example precision farming or new technologies)
- Equipment and machinery to reduce impacts on soils (like specialist drills to enable low or zero tillage farming) and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions



- Investments to improve facilities for slurry / manure management; and
- Investments to modernise or mechanise production and increase productivity
- Equipment and machinery to improve the efficiency of use in animal feed and other products
- Improvements to livestock housing to improve animal welfare or energy efficiency
- Equipment and machinery to improve animal handling above 'standard equipment'
- Investment in equipment, technologies or processes to reduce waste
- Investment in equipment, technologies or processes to develop new or higher quality products
- business start-ups
- Marketing activity, excluding hard copy material, associated with the above investments
- Construction or conversion of buildings to be used for processing activities.

Please note this list is not exhaustive and may be subject to change¹.

Areas and activity we cannot give grant for

In addition to the generic ineligible activity detailed in the [LEADER Handbook](#) the following will not be supported through this call:

- × A Farm Business located outside the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area. You can ensure the project to be funded is in the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area here <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> or seek advice from the Programme Co-ordinator.
- × A Farm Business which does not have the majority of their holding in the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area and is not designated Less Favoured Area with a proportion of the holding in Severely Disadvantaged Area.

Grant Funding Available

Minimum grant offered -	£2,500
Maximum grant offered -	£35,000

Maximum grant that will be offered towards eligible project costs – **40%**

Applicants must provide the remaining minimum of 60% from a private source of funding (i.e. their own business funds or bank loan).

Outputs we expect to see

As a result of our grant we need to see a measurable result.

¹ This list is from the National LEADER Handbook v3



ALL Applicants **must** show how they will create sustainable employment, employment opportunities and/or economic growth.

Applicants need to show how their project will contribute to the following:

1. **Employment opportunities and Job Creation;**
2. **Improved profitability within the business;**
3. **Introduction of new/innovative methods into the business.**

Applicants will need to evidence these outputs as the project will be monitored against these outputs on a quarterly basis.

Before making an Application

Before making an application it is important to consider:

- LEADER will pay no more than 40% of the total project costs and will not pay 100% towards a single item within a larger project;
- Whether the project will be completed by 31st March 2018. All of the grant must be spent and claimed no later than 31st March 2018.
- That the project meets the basic eligibility criteria as outlined in the [LEADER Applicant Handbook](#), available to download from our website www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk. We strongly recommend you read this in detail, as non-compliance with RDPE requirements by an approved project can result in financial penalties.

How to Apply

We have a two stage application process.

Stage 1 Outline Application Form and Guidance are available to download from our website.

www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk

If you require assistance in completing the Outline Application Form, you should contact the Programme Co-ordinator who can help.

You will be invited to submit a Stage 2 Full Application if the Outline Application is considered eligible and complete.

Deadline for the Outline Application

Outline Applications must be submitted by email by 25th July at 17:00

An Outline Application must be submitted to rima.berry@ydmtd.org in the prescribed electronic format. You will receive email confirmation of receipt within 2 working days.



Moving to a Stage 2 Full Application

A decision on whether or not you are to be invited to submit a Stage 2 Full Application will normally be communicated to you within 10 working days by the Programme Co-ordinator. **Full Applications will be issued on a rolling basis up to July 25th deadline– the earlier a complete and eligible Outline Application is received, the sooner a Full Application can be issued.**

All Full Applications are competitive.

Work must not start on any part of the project before you have received and accepted an offer of grant from the Rural Payments Agency. This includes ordering or paying a deposit on materials or equipment.

For More Information Contact

Programme Co-ordinator: Rima Berry

Email: rima.berry@ydm.org

Tel: 015142 51002