

# GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

and Rural Development Programme for England 2014-2020



The new Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) was formally agreed by the European Commission on 13th February 2015. The scope of these payments is increasingly wide, so farmers and landowners need to understand how to make the most of the new opportunities. Different tranches of funding will be released throughout the period.

Under the RDPE, at least £3.5 billion in rural development schemes is available until 2020. The RDPE is made up of four elements:

Countryside Stewardship	£2.1bn old schemes, £900m new schemes
Countryside Productivity	£141m as mainly capital grants
Growth Programme	£177m through Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)
LEADER	£138m through Local Action Groups (LAGs)

# COUNTRYSIDE PRODUCTIVITY

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March to June 2015 will see a £5 million round of Capital Grants to cover up to a maximum 40% of the actual costs of investment in equipment and innovative technology in farming and forestry. Further rounds of similar funding will run throughout 2015-2020.

Between £2,500 and £35,000 for specific types of equipment for:

- Improvements to animal productivity, health and welfare
- LED lighting systems for livestock housing and in wavelength control
- Remote crop sensing
- Small-scale forestry: processing/wood harvesting/extraction
- Slurry management
- Recycling ammonia and heat emissions

Over £35,000 to improve productivity in the following areas:

- Small-scale forestry: processing/wood harvesting/extraction
- Controlled atmosphere storage

- Crop robotics
- Poultry litter drying systems
- Farm water management involving reservoirs and irrigation

More funding will be available later to help:

- Farmers improve their skills
- Start-up business grants for young farmers
- Specific projects to improve animal health, the woodfuel supply chain and ammonia emissions on farms

**European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability:**

This funding aims to bring researchers and those in industry together to test ideas and apply research, finding ways to solve issues of productivity and sustainability in farming and/or forestry. Projects can run for up to three years with funding of between £5,000 and £150,000. Defra are likely to ask for ideas for projects in March. The full application process for grant funding will open later in 2015.

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Appointing a good adviser will ensure best use of time to progress as smoothly and swiftly as possible. Brown & Co advisors are well placed to help with the right expertise and having secured many grants for clients in the previous schemes. Brown & Co provides a comprehensive service from establishing which projects are eligible through to advising on feasibility and the application process.

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## WHY USE BROWN&CO

We have a wealth of experience across our regions in securing funds for our clients for various projects ranging in value from thousands to millions of pounds. Our consultants can draw on a vast, cutting edge pool of knowledge and expertise to assist you in achieving your goals, efficiently and effectively.

- An impressive track record
- Experience with both large and small projects
- Proven process and systems
- Expertise across all sectors
- Unrivalled knowledge
- Value for money

# COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP AND CAPITAL GRANTS

**Countryside Stewardship:** will be focused and targeted and consist of mid-tier & higher-tier agreements of five years or longer. It will encompass the prior environmental schemes (ELS & HLS) English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and Catchment Sensitive Farming grants (CSF). Applications will begin in 2015 with agreements commencing from 2016.

**Water capital grants:** will be available as part of agreements or alone. A maximum of £10,000 is available to reduce water pollution to those in a targeted catchment or in existing stewardship agreements. Applications are competitive, the first round runs from March to April 2015.

**Hedgerow and boundary capital grants:** There will also be a tier of grants for hedgerow and boundary

capital projects, likely to be a maximum of £5,000. The first round of on-line applications are planned to begin between February and April 2016.

**Woodland capital grants: will be available for:**

- Creating and maintaining new woodland
- Woodland management plans
- Woodland tree health

For Creating Woodland, in the first round, application forms, maps and woodland creation plans must be sent to the Forestry Commission by 30th April 2015 to give the Forestry Commission time to visit, if necessary, and suggest changes. Finalised applications need to be submitted by 31st May. Applications to obtain funding for Woodland Management Plans and Woodland Tree Health are also open.

## LEADER

Funding of £138 million until 2020 will be available to local businesses, farmers, foresters, land managers and communities. It is allocated to Local Action Groups (LAGs) in order to create jobs and growth in rural areas, mainly via small grants. Expected to begin fully mid 2015.

**LEADER grants will cover 6 important priorities:**

- Increasing farm productivity
- Increasing forestry productivity
- Support for micro, small and start-up businesses and farm diversification
- Support for rural tourism
- Provision of rural services
- Support for cultural/heritage activity

## GROWTH PROGRAM

£177 million is available to help support the local rural economy. Successful applications will be for projects that fit with local strategic priorities set by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs,) which help create new jobs and economic growth and are good value for money. A call for projects will be announced between March and June 2015 for most areas of the country.

**Grants will be available for:**

- Starting up a business
- Developing a business
- Renewable heat and energy projects
- Tourism

## HOW YOU BENEFIT

Our service is designed to remove all the stress and hassle of assessing the opportunities for grant funding or the suitability of the project proposed. We can provide you with a single point of contact with other independent professional advisors who are well placed to discuss a range of potential projects.

- Helps you avoid pitfalls and saves time
- Unbiased opinion on the suitability of the scheme
- Give you a competitive advantage
- A high success rate of gaining grant funding
- A flexible fee structure dependent on the advice required, ensuring value for money





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For expert advice on rural development and capital grant funding opportunities, please contact your local Brown & Co specialist:



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