

# Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) in the Northwest

## Priorities for RDPE in the Northwest

- Making farming and forestry more competitive and sustainable\*
- Enhancing the environment and countryside
- Enhancing opportunities in rural areas\*
- Skills, knowledge transfer and capacity building\*

\* Activity led by NWDA

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) is responsible for stimulating the economic growth and regeneration of England's Northwest. As a business-led organisation, we provide a crucial link between the needs of business and Government policies and we work to create an environment in which businesses in the region can flourish.

## RDPE BULLETIN - APRIL 2009

### Local Action Groups in Cumbria Launch

Two Local Action Groups who will be delivering a wide range of activities including advice, training, grants for rural businesses and rural communities have now been launched in Cumbria. These are the Solway Border and Eden and Fells and Dales groups.

The Programmes provides funding for the following activities:

- Grants for farming and forestry activities
- Grants for rural businesses and community projects
- Training and information provision
- Farm diversification into non-agricultural activities
- Forestry advisory services
- Business creation and development targeted at micro-businesses with less than 10 employees
- Setting up of management, relief and advisory services for farm and forestry businesses
- Encouragement of certain tourism activity such as eco-tourism, high value/low impact tourism or the creation of tourism networks



### NW Livestock website goes Live

The NW Livestock Programme, which was headlined last month, is now up and running. The new website [www.livestocknw.co.uk](http://www.livestocknw.co.uk) is live and will be regularly updated with information for livestock farmers over the next 4 years. Evening events to raise awareness of what's on offer are being rolled out through the region. The first events have been held and were organised by the Cumbria Farmer Network and Myerscough College.

With climate change issues rising in importance, there is a lot of interest in ways of saving energy and cutting costs on farms – like heat recovery systems and rainwater recycling, some of which are eligible under the livestock programme.

### Farms and rural businesses can get help with Business Planning

Before a farm or rural business project can be funded under the RDPE, there is a need for business planning. Where only a small amount of funding is being sought, i.e. less than £5000, then the help offered by the Business Link Rural Brokers may be sufficient to support an application.

However for bigger projects, a full business plan will be needed.

Help towards the cost of this plan is available in the form of a Business Planning grant, offered at a grant rate related to the project, of at least 40%.

Contact the RDPE office in Penrith for a Business Planning grant pack.

# Regional Activity

## THE LIVESTOCK PROGRAMME

Livestock farmers can apply for support to improve productivity and farm competitiveness. The following organisations have been appointed to deliver support work across three main headings:

### Resource Efficiency and nutrient management

- Enquiries should be addressed to Sandra Callwood of Promar on 0870 870 7380 or [scallwood@promar-international.com](mailto:scallwood@promar-international.com)

### Animal health and Welfare planning

- Enquiries to Ian Cairns, SAC Consulting on 0845 604 0535 or [ian.cairns@sac.co.uk](mailto:ian.cairns@sac.co.uk)

### Monitor Farms and a dedicated NW Livestock ICT network

- contact Kath Lowe at Myerscough college on 01995 642255 or [kllowe@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:kllowe@myerscough.ac.uk)

Further information available at: [www.livestocknw.co.uk](http://www.livestocknw.co.uk)

### • CUMBRIA

Two Local Action Groups are developing projects which will support businesses, maximise training and skills development and provide opportunities for rural Cumbria.

Which of the 2 Local Action Groups covers your area?

**Fells & Dales Local Action Group** covers the central Lakes area and the south and east of the county

T. 01768 869533

E. [info@fellsanddales.org.uk](mailto:info@fellsanddales.org.uk)

**Solway, Border & Eden Local Action Group** covers the northern and north eastern areas of the county, as well as much of the western coastal plain. Solway, Border and Eden LAG temporary contact details

T. 016973 49212

E [info@sbeleader.org.uk](mailto:info@sbeleader.org.uk)

### • LANCASHIRE

Three Local Action Groups are forming in Lancashire, namely North Lancashire, Pennine Lancashire, West Lancashire, but they are not able to take funding enquiries just yet.

### • MERSEYSIDE

Support is available through a Local Action Group, **Mersey Rural Leader**, under 6 project themes:

- adding value cooperatively,
- equine business groups,
- sustainable biomass,
- carbon audits /recycling,
- rural retail,
- tourism networks

Contact the Merseyside LAG on 0151 4435590  
[jonathan.jackson@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.jackson@knowsley.gov.uk)

### • CHESHIRE

Funding in Cheshire is being planned under 2 main groupings - firstly grants for adding value, farm diversification, micro-enterprises, cooperative ventures and tourism networks, and secondly funding for skills & training. Further details will be in our next bulletin.

Also for help in parts of southern Cheshire – contact:

**Northern Marches Local Action Group**

T: 01244 402229 or 07734 132405.

E: [david.boyce@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:david.boyce@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

### • GREATER MANCHESTER

In the east of the area, Oldham and Rochdale, help is available from the **South Pennine Local Action Group** via Pennine Prospects on 01274 431019 or [graham.joyce@pennineprospects.co.uk](mailto:graham.joyce@pennineprospects.co.uk)

Other projects covering Greater Manchester will be developed in the coming months.

## FURTHER BUSINESS SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO FARMS AND MICROENTERPRISES:

• **BUSINESS LINK NORTHWEST** provides high quality, impartial business information and advice to businesses across the region. It is also the gateway to all public and private sector business support. Business Link Northwest can be contacted on 0845 00 66 888 or visit the website at [www.businesslink.gov.uk/northwest](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/northwest)



For details of other RDPE funding in the North West view the following web-sites:

- Agri-Environment Schemes [www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/northwest](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/northwest)
- English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) contact: [www.forestry.gov.uk/northwestengland-grants](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/northwestengland-grants)

This Bulletin is available on [www.nwda.co.uk/rdpe](http://www.nwda.co.uk/rdpe). For further information contact Sheila Moffat on 01768 861321.