Introduction



New Entrant Farming Opportunity

Land at:

XXXXXXX

A 10 point action plan aimed at kick-starting a new generation of farmers by dramatically increasing the number of starter opportunities on public land was published on the 23 November 2016. New Farming Starter Opportunities on Publicly Owned Land report can be accessed here <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/11/2861>.

The recommendations, contained in the final report of a short life industry-led group, sets out how start-up grants, access to Basic Payments allied to advice and skills programmes can facilitate entry and allow individuals to develop.

Henry Graham, Chair of the group said:

“It was clear to all members of the group that new entrants are highly desirable and access to land is a key requirement. Those seeking to enter agriculture often require assistance to get on the first step of the farming ladder and the review found there is a supply of starter opportunities on publicly owned land. I now look forward to coordinating the New Entrants Opportunities Programme highlighted in the report.”

The Farming Opportunities for New Entrants (FONE) Group has now been set up and is working with Public Bodies to increase the opportunities for New Entrant on Publicly Owned Land.

Scottish Government has a desire to see publicly owned land used to give opportunities to New Entrants to Agriculture and those progressing from New Entrant status. Forest Enterprise Scotland has already contributed to this by the creation of a number of Starter Farms. It has now been recognised that the first foot on the farming ladder is a level below the FES model of Starter Farms and therefore public bodies are being asked to give consideration to New Entrants on other agricultural land letting opportunities.

Forestry Enterprise Scotland will do this by weighting application in favour of suitably qualified New Entrants and Progressors wherever we think they can contribute to our wider objectives.

Forest Enterprise Scotland, which is an agency of Forestry Commission Scotland, manages the National Forest Estate (NFE) on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

The National Forest Estate is one of Scotland’s greatest assets, providing economic, social and environmental benefits to the people of Scotland and FES, amongst many other things, have a duty to protect and enhance our environmental features. We will also take opportunities to increase agricultural use of the Estate where this is consistent with environmental objectives.

We receive funding from Scottish Government and report to the Scottish Ministers. Fergus Ewing MSP is Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for Agriculture and Forestry. We work with the Scottish Government to deliver the [Scottish Forestry Strategy](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6aggzw) and also contribute to many aspects of wider Scottish Government policy such as energy, environment and climate change, biodiversity, healthy living, rural transport, tourism and education.

More information is available on our website at [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)

Farming Opportunity.

Land at Someplace, Town,.

We are offering an agricultural opportunity at Someplace where Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) consider that their environmental (amend as appropriate) objectives can be met by way of low input/output farming methods and invite proposals from parties who would be interested in undertaking complimentary grazing over these areas, subject to the following conditions.

The area(s) will be offered initially on a 5 year SLDT.

Subject to satisfactory performance FES retain the right to negotiate with the winning bidders with a view to converting the lease to a 10 year (total) LDT. (remove if necessary)

Entry will be available from XXXXXXX

FES considers that fencing and other fixed equipment to be in suitable condition for the purpose of the lease, however bidders are to satisfy themselves of this and will be responsible for maintaining the fixed equipment for the duration of the lease.

Where bidders consider that additional fixed equipment is required then they should make that known in their application.

Farming methods must be low input/output in order to encourage and promote desired flora and fauna.

This is expected to include. **Adapt to fit the opportunity in question**

* + All grassland must remain as pasture. No reseeding by any means will be permitted.
  + No artificial fertilisers to be applied.
  + No organic manures to be imported from off the holding.
  + Grazing will be by sheep only and must be hardy native breeds.
  + Grazing will be at a maximum of 0.3 Livestock Units per Hectare (equivalent to 54 ewes).

Cutting, burning or any other mechanical intervention will not be permitted, unless authorised in advance in writing.

The Area

The grazing area extends to approximately XX.XX ha as is marked on the attached map.

Application Form

**Personal Details**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name |  | |
| Address |  | |
| Post Code |  | |
| Telephone number |  | |
| Mobile number |  | |
| Email Address |  | |
|  |  | |
| References | Please supply the names of two references who can vouch for your character and experience | |
| Reference 1 | Name |  |
|  | Address |  |
|  | Phone |  |
|  | Email |  |
| Reference 1 | Name |  |
|  | Address |  |
|  | Phone |  |
|  | Email |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FES or other parts of Scottish Government may wish to contact you regarding other New Entrant opportunities.  Please indicate if you are content for your details to be released for this. | **Yes/No**  Delete as appropriate |

**Scoring**

Proposals will be scored against environmental & agricultural objectives and rental offer using the undernoted matrix.

Please start to type in the grey box and it will expand to fit as required.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Scoring range | | Score FES USE ONLY |
| 1. Grounds for mandatory rejection |  | |  |
| **1.1 Animal welfare** | Are you currently banned from keeping livestock or have you been subject to an animal cruelty conviction. | |  |
| *1.1 Answer* | Yes/No | | Pass/Fail |
| **1.2. Insurance** | Do you have or will you obtain prior to entry suitable Public Liability Insurance cover Min £5m) | |  |
| *1.2.Answer* | Yes/No | | Pass/Fail |
|  |  | |  |
| **2.1 New Entrant Status**  We will give preference to New Entrants and Progressors, although others may apply for this opportunity. We are looking for applicants with some agricultural experience, but that currently have no permanent land holding. Applications from existing farm businesses will not score highly in this section. The applicant could however be related to an active farmer but their tenure at this opportunity must not be connected to any other business. The applicant will need to demonstrate how this opportunity allows the development of a new agricultural unit. We recognise the value of having built some business capital and experience and therefore it is also feasible that the applicant may undertake existing limited agricultural activity, on seasonal grazings for instance. | 0 - 5 - No response or totally inadequate  6 - 10 - Major Reservations or constraints  11 - 15 - Some Reservations or Constraints  16 - 20 - Fully Compliant  21 - 25 - Exceeds Requirements | |  |
| *2.1 – Please explain you current farming status & experience and how it fits with our desire to help New Entrants* | | | |
| **2.2 Exit Strategy**  For us to continue to offer the Starter Unit as an opportunity in the future we need to understand how you plan to consolidate your start in farming and move on to a new opportunity. | 0 - 5 - No response or totally inadequate  6 - 10 - Major Reservations or constraints  11 - 15 - Some Reservations or Constraints  16 - 20 - Fully Compliant  21 - 25 - Exceeds Requirements | |  |
| *2.2 Please explain how you intend to consolidate and progress in your farming career.* | | | |
| **2.3 Farming System** Please outline the farming system you will employ. This will include making reference to the breeds and class of livestock, supplementary feeding methods and how you will manage the stock on a day to day basis You should include narrative on how these practices will fit with our environmental objectives.  You should include a brief description of your farming experience, which should include reference to other conservation work you have undertaken.  You should include in this section any requests for fixed equipment improvement or replacement. | 0 - 5 - No response or totally inadequate  6 - 10 - Major Reservations or constraints  11 - 15 - Some Reservations or Constraints  16 - 20 - Fully Compliant  21 - 25 - Exceeds Requirements | |  |
| *2.3* *Please describe the Farming System which you propose giving details of the ancillary facilities which you have to help deliver this:* | | | |
| **3 Rent** This section will be judged against realism, affordability, flexibility and any other justification you have provided. | | 0 - 5 - No response or totally inadequate  6 - 10 - Major Reservations or constraints  11 - 15 - Some Reservations or Constraints  16 - 20 - Fully Compliant  21 - 25 - Exceeds Requirements |  |
| *3.1. Rental amount:* | | Please insert rental offer. This should be the total per annum. | £ |
| *3.2. Rental Justification:* | | | |
| Total Score (FES use only) | | Maximum 100 points |  |

Answers may be continued on a separate sheet but must be cross reference to the paragraph numbering used above.

**Interviews** – FES reserves the right to call a shortlist of candidates to interview. Should interviews be held scoring may be amended according to interview performance.

Should interviews be required these will be held on XXXXX at the address below.

**Applications to be sent to:**

Organisation

Address

Applications **to be received by 12 noon on xx/xx/xxxx** and marked **“Application for xxxxxxxxx Farming Opportunity, not to be opened until 1 p.m. on xx/xx/xx”**