

Farming Smarter Toolkit Tender

Task Brief

Project Job Title	Project Officer: Farming Smarter Toolkit
Reports to	Cumbria Inquiry Coordinator
Term	1 Year Freelance
Hours	Contract, approximately 10 days per month
Location	Home based, ideally in or close to Cumbria. The post holder will be required to travel to Ambleside for regular meetings, and within Cumbria to meet with farmers, partners and stakeholders.
Contract Value	£18,000.00. Expenses will be paid according to the FFCC expenses policy.

Project Brief

FFCC works across the four nations of the UK, with a network of inquiries at a national and local scale. Our place-based inquiries comprise, so far, three county inquiries in England – in Cumbria, Devon and the east of England – and one each in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

In Cumbria, we are recruiting a Project Officer to lead on the development and trialling of a Farming Smarter Toolkit to support farm businesses to adapt as direct payments are phased out.

The purpose of the project is to upskill upland farmers and their advisors in environmental management and farm business finance, with a focus on integrating food production with enhancing public goods and improving financial resilience.

We are looking for someone with strong lived experience in farming or farming extension/advisory roles, delivering change in practice. We need someone to bring enthusiasm and creativity to develop and deliver this project as a strong self-starter.

The Project Officer will report to the Cumbria Inquiry Chair and Coordinator, and will be supported by a steering group and network of partners – including NFU, Foundation for Common Land, Nature Friendly Farming Network, the Farmer Network, Federation of Cumbria Commoners, PFLA amongst others – who will provide support with toolkit design, communication and training.

Key Tasks and Responsibilities

- To develop an advisor and farmer facing toolkit with specific advice and guidance for the needs of Cumbrian upland farmers.
- To pilot the toolkit inclusive of the following:
 - To organise delivery of training which will assist farm businesses to be Environmental Land Management (ELM) ready and to take up other public and private finance opportunities for delivering public goods.
 - To proactively distribute the toolkit through a network of trusted advisors and intermediaries in Cumbria, helping to get the toolkit up the farm tracks and discuss it face to face on the farms.
 - To provide support in de-mystifying ELM for farmers, and how they can best start preparing their farms for future support.

- To help farmers better understand new language around public goods, natural capital, carbon, regenerative farming and agroecology.
 - To provide training on holistic management and agroecology principles, including mapping a farm and whole farm infrastructure planning to reduce costs and build resilience.
 - To provide advice on auditing a farm through credible metrics, e.g. Sustainable Food Trust (SFT) Global Farm Metric or Farm Carbon Toolkit (FCT).
 - To provide technical advice and guidance on issues such as rotational grazing, natural flood management, carbon foot printing and agroforestry specific to Cumbrian farmers and landscapes.
 - To evaluate the success of the pilot, lessons learnt and how the project can be rolled out in other counties, and nationally.
 - To identify additional sources of funding and assist with preparing funding bids, alongside the Cumbria Inquiry Chair and Coordinator, and Programme Lead.
-

Person Specification: Knowledge and Skills Required

Essential

- Strong understanding of upland farming systems and literacy in farm economics.
- Understanding of public goods.
- Demonstrable project management, organisational and administrative skills, with the ability to prioritise, multitask and coordinate workshops and events.
- Experience of designing and delivering training and/or knowledge transfer.
- Ability to communicate confidently and to present written material in a clear, concise and engaging manner to a range of partners and stakeholders at all levels.
- Ability to think laterally and creatively, with good problem-solving and negotiation skills.
- Strong self-starter to develop and deliver a project creatively and enthusiastically: Comfortable working alone, and virtually, demonstrating initiative, self-direction and motivation, and as part of a virtual networked team meeting face to face as required.
- Strong interest in the aims and ethos of FFCC, and demonstrable commitment to agro-pastoral farming and production of high-quality livestock and food.

Desirable

- Practical farming experience.
 - Knowledge of Cumbrian farming and/or land management sector.
 - GIS/mapping knowledge (e.g. LandApp or equivalent).
 - Experience of preparing funding bids.
 - Driving licence.
-