



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



# Farm Business Grant (FBG) Scheme Frequently Asked Questions



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar  
gyfer Datblygu Gwledig  
Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
European Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development  
Europe Investing in Rural Areas



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Welsh Government

The Welsh Government Rural Communities –  
Rural Development Programme for Wales

2014-2020

# Farm Business Grant (FBG) Scheme

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Farm Business Grant (FBG) is an important element of the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, and is a key commitment in the Programme for Government: *Taking Wales Forward*.

It is consistent with the Welsh Government's priorities for agriculture and Amaeth Cymru's Strategic Framework Partnership Group for Agriculture vision of a prosperous, resilient agriculture industry promoting Wales' present and future wellbeing.

It is designed to help farmers in Wales to improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holdings. The objectives are to increase on-farm investment, to increase technical performance, increase on-farm production efficiencies and to increase on-farm resource efficiencies.

This document will be updated at regular intervals.

### What's available through the grant?

The grant covers capital investments in equipment and machinery that have been pre-identified as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to your farm enterprise. The capital items have been specified, along with a standardised cost and there are over 80 items available.

A full list of items can be found in Annex A of the scheme documentation, on the Welsh Government website <https://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/farm-business-grant-scheme/?lang=en>

### What is Standardised Cost?

A standard cost has been allocated to each item available through the FBG. This means that the applicant will know exactly how much grant they will receive (if the total is within the funding limits and the application is successful) when they apply for the grant. It also means that farmers will not be required to submit quotations for items before they purchase them.

### What is the funding limit?

The total funding available for FBG will be £40million over four years.

The minimum grant per application is £3,000 and the maximum overall grant is £12,000. Applications which are less than £3,000 grant value will not be considered. If all applications exceed the maximum grant, the grant will be limited to £12,000. **If your application is approved, all items applied for must be purchased.**

### Why is the minimum funding £3,000?

The grant amounts focus on the potential for the sector and individual farm businesses to grow. The objective will be to build profit margins and the resilience of the sub-sectors as a whole, but also to improve professionalism and capacity for further growth.

## **How do businesses start the application process?**

First of all they need to register with Farming Connect to obtain a Farming Connect registration number. A member of the business will also be required to attend a “Farming for the Future” event held by Farming Connect. To find out more about Farming Connect guidance, advice and training services, and to keep up to date with their comprehensive events programme, visit: [www.gov.wales/farmingconnect/events](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect/events)

## **Do businesses have to attend a “Farming for the Future” event for each of the application windows?**

No – if a member of the business has attended the event, they can apply in any of the windows of the scheme. For those that have not attended, there will be further events held across Wales. Further details on these events can be found on the Farming Connect website: [www.gov.wales/farmingconnect/events](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect/events)

## **What are the eligibility Criteria to apply?**

- Valid Customer Reference Number (CRN)
- 3ha of eligible registered agricultural land within Wales

Or

- are able to demonstrate over 550 standard labour hours per annum
- Turnover of £1million or less

**To note** – In order to receive the FBG payment you must submit a letter from your accountant confirming your business turnover for the most recent financial year and that accounts are available when you submit your claim

## **Are there any restrictions on who can apply?**

- Businesses with a total turnover exceeding £1 million are not eligible for FBG.
- Businesses that have been successful under the Sustainable Production Grant Scheme are not eligible for FBG.

## **Can a business submit an FBG application and then register with Farming Connect?**

No - they must register with Farming Connect and confirm that they have attended a Farming for the Future event on their Expression of Interest.

## **How do businesses apply and claim for FBG?**

Expressions of Interest (EoI) and claims for the Farm Business Grant (FBG) are now submitted through RPW Online. If your EoI is successful you will be offered a contract, which must be accepted within 30 days you have 120 days from the date the contract is offered to purchase the items, and submit a claim for item(s) that have been purchased. You must accept your contract before purchasing your items. You must submit a FBG claim through RPW online, using the Capital Works Claim page. You will also be required to submit scanned copies of the relevant invoices using your RPW Online account or submit original invoices at your RPW Divisional Office.

If your EoI is successful, you are required to purchase **ALL** of the items which are listed in your contract. Failure to do so will mean the claim is not eligible.

## **Can a business submit a paper copy of the invoices?**

Yes. Businesses can submit the original paper invoices by visiting their RPW Divisional Office. They will be scanned and returned to you during the visit.

## **Why do businesses have 120 days to purchase the items and make a claim?**

We are holding numerous rounds for the scheme and require all items to be purchased and claimed for the previous window before the process begins for the next window.

All the items must be on your farm and available for inspection when you submit your invoices. You may be selected for inspection before the payment is made. If the items are not available for inspection, no payment will be made and your **whole claim will be rejected**.

## **Once a business has submitted an EoI for FBG can it be withdrawn?**

### **A. Yes during an open EoI window**

You can withdraw your application via “My Messages” in your RPW Online account; you may re-submit an application before the window has closed.

### **B. Yes after an EoI window has closed BUT before the business has received the contract.**

You can withdraw your application via “My Messages” in your RPW Online account.

If you have selected the wrong items or have changed your mind about the items that you have selected or have missed items that you wanted to select, you must withdraw your application and apply again in the next round.

Please remember that the process is competitive and there is no guarantee that you will be successful in the next round.

### **C. Once the business has been selected and received a contract for FBG, can changes be made to the items requested?**

No. We cannot accept changes to the kinds of items requested.

You can buy the same items of a higher (better) specification, but that is the only permitted change.

## **I have been advised by the supplier/manufacturer that they cannot deliver the items before the claim date, what can I do?**

You will need to contact us via “My Messages” in your RPW Online account or by emailing the **FBG mailbox – [FBG.ProcessingTeam@gov.wales](mailto:FBG.ProcessingTeam@gov.wales)** – notifying them of the issue.

You will need to request an extension to the 120-day deadline to claim, and provide proof of ordering the item and documentary evidence from the supplier to confirm that they cannot supply the item. This information must be submitted before the original 120-day claim deadline and demonstrate that you have attempted to have the item supplied in time for the original deadline.

## **Is there any more information available?**

The application form and scheme rules and guidance are available on the Welsh Government website: <https://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/farm-business-grant-scheme/?lang=en>