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## LEADER IN LEICESTERSHIRE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND RUTLAND

**Grant funding opportunities for agricultural productivity projects on the farm. LEADER is an EU funded programme designed to provide rural grants for agricultural productivity, farm diversification, community projects and small businesses.**

There are five “LEADER” grant programmes across Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. While there can be small differences between each of them, the main funding priorities cover and support applications under the following themes:

- Enhancing farm productivity
- Supporting small and medium-sized rural enterprises and farm diversification
- Supporting rural tourism
- Supporting the provision of rural services
- Supporting cultural and heritage activity
- Supporting increased forest productivity

This briefing looks in detail at agricultural productivity. This is because feedback from the facilitators shows that uptake of this theme is low and if the money allocated is not being spent then the risk is we lose it. To find out the criteria around the other themes mentioned above each LEADER has a handbook that is available on their website. Links to those sites are on page 3, so please refer to that for your local LEADER and the other themes.

### WHAT DOES THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY MEASURE LOOK LIKE?

This can apply to projects where farmers and growers in the LEADER areas are looking at investment in **innovative business practices** and **new technologies** to help become more **sustainable and productive**. Grants are not available for investments in standard agricultural or horticultural practices. There are minimum and maximum grant limits which vary across the different LEADER areas and generally grants are made for 40% of the eligible costs.

There are four main types of projects that could be supported under the productivity theme:

#### 1) Projects that improve overall performance and sustainability by acquiring equipment that:

- Improves efficiency of the use of energy, water, fertiliser and other direct inputs
- Reduces impacts on soil and/or reduces greenhouse gases
- Improves the management of slurry and manures to reduce the reliance on artificial fertilisers
- To mechanise production and increase productivity

#### 2) Investment in equipment to support animal health and welfare improvements

- Improves the monitoring of the consumption of animal feed and water

- Improves animal welfare
- Improves animal handling above 'standard equipment'

### 3) Processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products

- Investment in equipment, technologies or processes to develop new or higher quality agri-food products or to reduce waste
- Marketing activity, excluding hard copy material
- Construction or conversion of buildings to be used for processing activities
- Investments in the production, processing and marketing of non-timber forest products, particularly wild venison
- Investments in collaborative grain processing facilities

### 4) Investment in reservoirs and irrigation systems which improve the efficiency of water management and irrigation.

For a list of equipment that is eligible and not eligible please contact the NFU County Adviser Simon Fisher on 07803 204507

### Economic and environmental benefits

Applications also need to show how their project will benefit the local economy. Some of the key indicators are the creation of jobs, wage bill change, number of businesses benefitting, the number of new products, or the number of new techniques. Under the agricultural productivity priority some project ideas will not be able to show job creation etc. but it will be able to show other benefits, such as environmental outputs and these can also be taken into consideration. These could include the reduction of ammonia, reduction of sulphur and the area affected by water-saving investments, or soil improvements.

In some areas there may also be local priorities that apply. Generally the local LEADER website will have a copy the Local Development Strategy that will inform you what they are. It could mean your project is a more important priority than others.

### WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Obtaining a LEADER grant is a five step process which is as follows:

1. Contact the local LEADER team – see the table below for names. Request a LEADER applicant handbook and relevant forms
2. Submit an outline application - a brief outline of the project to assess initial eligibility. This is not a guarantee of success
3. Full application – provides full information on the project including costs, employment, and growth opportunities
4. Grant awarded – if successful the award is confirmed in writing to the applicant
5. Claim funding – the applicant submits invoices, proof of payments, and confirmation that work is completed.

### WHERE DO I GO NEXT?

The website and contact details for the LEADER areas in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland are in the table on page three of this briefing, so contact the co-ordinator listed for your area.

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOUR LOCAL LEADER

LEADER AREA	Website address	Areas covered	Contact details for LEADER co-ordinators
East Leicestershire	<a href="http://www.oakleaves.org.uk/east-leicestershire-leader.html">http://www.oakleaves.org.uk/east-leicestershire-leader.html</a>	All of Melton and Harborough districts, parts of Charnwood and Blaby districts, & Lutterworth area.	Richard Erwin-Jones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0116 305 6298</li> <li><a href="mailto:Richard.Erwin-Jones@leics.gov.uk">Richard.Erwin-Jones@leics.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
North Warwickshire & Hinckley	<a href="http://www.englishruralheart.org/">http://www.englishruralheart.org/</a>	Area bounded by Congerstone, Higham, Groby and Markfield	North Warwickshire Borough Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>01827 719 271</li> <li><a href="mailto:leaderproject@northwarks.gov.uk">leaderproject@northwarks.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
Rutland & Rural Peterborough	<a href="http://www.leaderfunding.co.uk">www.leaderfunding.co.uk</a>	Rutland County area	Sheila O'Brien <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>01733 317404</li> <li><a href="mailto:Sheila.obrien@opportunitypeterborough.co.uk">Sheila.obrien@opportunitypeterborough.co.uk</a></li> </ul>
North & West Northants	<a href="http://www.leaderprogramme.org.uk/">http://www.leaderprogramme.org.uk/</a>	North and West Northamptonshire LEADER covers these parts of the county	Will Dallimore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>07802 411040</li> <li>01494 927167</li> <li><a href="mailto:William.dallimore@ngagesolutions.co.uk">William.dallimore@ngagesolutions.co.uk</a></li> </ul>
Clay Vales	<a href="http://www.leaderprogramme.org.uk/">http://www.leaderprogramme.org.uk/</a>	Clay Vales LEADER area covers much of South Northamptonshire	Ruth Deraed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>01494 927165</li> <li><a href="mailto:ruth.deraed@ngagesolutions.co.uk">ruth.deraed@ngagesolutions.co.uk</a></li> </ul>
General notes	<b>Defra Website link for LEADER:</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-development-programme-for-england-leader-funding">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-development-programme-for-england-leader-funding</a>	<a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx">www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx</a> is an interactive map. Click on Administrative Geographies in Table of Contents; select Other Administrative Boundaries; select rural development fund eligibility for LEADER group	Local Enterprise Partnerships also offer larger grant opportunities from the RDPE Growth Programme that covers business development; food processing and rural tourism infrastructure. Defra website information and useful handbooks are at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rdpe-growth-programme">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rdpe-growth-programme</a>