Forestry Commission Scotland

Scottish Government

New Entrants Gathering

Elgin

18th February 2015
• Background Info


• FES facts and figures.
  • 900,000 ha under FES stewardship
  • 23,000 ha agric land
  • Grazings, crofting, ’91 act tenancies, SLDT’s, LDT’s
  • In House farming activity.
FCS Starter Farm Initiative
Starter Farms - Why are we doing it?

- To meet Government objectives!
- Promote integrated land use.
- Make best use of Scotland land for Scotland People.
What are we doing.

• Creating a small number of opportunities for new entrants.
• Geographical spread – but can only create were we have suitable land holdings.
• 7 to date.
• 8th tenant announce last week
• What are we creating.

• Part Time rural business opportunities.
• Usually IRO 60-70 ha, but depends on quality.

• Why part time?
  • Limitations on land available.
  • Recognise new entrants have limited capital.
  • Need to use this capital to best advantage
  • Generally need to fund business growth from external sources.
• What do we do.

• Generally buying run down holdings.
• Must have scope for woodland creation.
• Often considerable work and expense to bring up to a suitable tenantable standard.
• Fixed equipment suitable for the purpose of the lease.
• 10 year LDT.
• What is a new entrant?
What next?

- Continue to seek to identify opportunities
- Acquisition
- Identify own land and add building(s).

- 2 New opportunities on the market
Woodfold, Rothiemay
82 Ha
Arable, permanent pasture and Rough Grazing
Gourdie, Dundee

Circa 5 Ha

Grade 2 land

Horticultural opportunity
• Woodland integration opportunities - optional
• Application Process

• Assessment Process – Panel make up
  • Transparent Scoring Matrix.

• Read the literature.
• Ask why we are asking the questions.
• Answer the question.
• Assume nothing!
• **Understand what you have submitted!**
The basics

• Reasonable level of background and experience.
• Buy in to our needs and values – conservation, access, information sharing.
• Strong Heath and Safety culture.
• Solid and realistic Business Plan & Budgets.
• What we ask.
  • **Motivation**
  • How will you supplement the income from the Starter Farm?
  • How would you be willing to **work with FCS** as we look at the potential for grazing and food production on other parts of the Estate?
  • How would you propose to **control pests**?
  • Explain how you might help **share good practice** and encourage other starter farm opportunities
• Explain if your proposal will create other employment either through contracting or directly, and if this is local.

• Explain briefly the relevant health and safety guidance you expect to employ on the farm. **H&S is a core value of FCS**

• Detail any training you have undertaken and what further training might be required if you are successful in becoming a tenant.
• Explain the types of **environmental works** you will implement on the farm primarily focusing on good husbandry of the Starter Farm.

• **Exit strategy** – really important that this is considered from an early stage.

• Please describe your planned **farm policy** – Your business plan.

• **Budgets** – 5 years.

• **Rent**
Questions!