

Farm News April 2024

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund

As part of the effort to support farmers, the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway have released a new scheme titled the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) 2024. Within this scheme, 3 grants are available to help farmers purchase items aimed at:

- Improving Productivity
- Managing Slurry
- Improving Animal Health and Welfare



Successful applicants to the scheme can expect:

- A minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £50,000 towards Productivity items
- A minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £50,000 towards Slurry items
- A minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £25,000 towards Animal Health and Welfare items

The grant contribution will not cover the entire cost of the item and it is important to note that FETF 2024 is a competitive scheme, so **you may not receive any, or all the funding that you apply for.**

The first application window is now open and will close for the Productivity and Slurry Management on **17th April 2024 at Midday.**

The window to apply for the Animal Health and Welfare grant closes **1st May 2024 at Midday.**

Two further application windows for all grants are expected during 2024. If you are unsuccessful in securing a grant in this application window, you are

still able to apply in a future window. You cannot reapply to the same grant in 2024 once you have been successful in an application.

How Do I Know if I Am Eligible?

Applications to the scheme are available to businesses based and registered in England and if you are a:

- Farmer
- Horticulturalist
- Forestry Owner
- Contractor carrying out services to the above

The grants are only available if you farm Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Laying Chickens (including rearing and breeding farms) and Broiler Chickens (including rearing and breeding farms).

Other types of livestock such as goats, ducks and other poultry are not eligible for the scheme.

The RPA will allocate funding for each grant after the application window has closed. The stronger the application, the more likely it is to receive funding. In the case of the Animal Health and Welfare grant, evidence of veterinary advice can boost your application score.



What Can I Get with The FETF Grant?

All items that are applied for must be new and meet the specifications that are linked below. You can buy items which have a higher specification but items that do not meet the minimum specification are not eligible. Any items that are funded through the FETF grant must be kept for 5 years from the date that the claim was paid.

There are over 130 items on the Animal Health and Welfare specification, which includes but not limited to mobile cattle handling systems, enclosed piglet creeps and poultry perches. For many items, the funding is a percentage increase from last year to provide more support to farmers.

To apply for FETF 2024 please visit:
<https://rpagrants.org.uk/welcome>

For more details on the scheme please visit the gov.uk website at this link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-2024/apply-for-the-farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-fetf-2024#check-youre-eligible>

Watery Mouth

Watery mouth is a neonatal disease that can make early life in newborn lambs difficult. The disease is caused by an infection with *E.Coli* and often results in symptoms where lambs are lethargic, reluctant to feed and bloated. Preventing watery mouth focusses on ewe nutrition before lambing allowing high quality colostrum to be produced, which is vital to lamb survival.

Rehydion is an over-the-counter product aimed at boosting the health of scouring calves and lambs, providing hydration and energy. Used alongside other treatments or standard feeding, it aims to relieve symptoms of lethargy and dehydration promoting optimal weight gain. A Ceva case study focuses on using Rehydion as part of a watery mouth treatment protocol.



The study found ewe health prior to lambing and colostrum quantity and quality received by the lambs to be important factors in preventing watery mouth. Focussing on ewe nutrition and body condition score throughout the year can help prepare ewes for lambing season when hygiene and colostrum quality should also be assessed.

Initial steps of the treatment protocol for cases of watery mouth as described in the study begins with antibiotic therapy and injection of an NSAID (Metacam). A solution made up of 2ml Rehydion and 50ml warm water is given alongside this treatment using a stomach tube, with a second dose 4 hours later. The study found many lambs begin sucking by this second dose, and whilst not all lambs recover, the use of Rehydion was found to significantly increase the survival rate of lambs with the disease.

Caesar Audit

Glenthorne Farm Vets are participating in the IVC Evidensia Bovine Caesarean Audit for 2024. This audit is aimed at finding trends and improving clinical standards, so we can provide the best clinical care to your animals. If you have a cow who requires a caesar then the Vet who performs the surgery will fill in a questionnaire about the procedure. This will then be followed up with a quick phone call 2-3 weeks post-operatively to see how the cow is recovering. The audit is completely anonymous, but the information we can collate from it helps us greatly. If you'd rather not participate then please let a member of the team know.



Sheep Abortion Workshop

You are invited to join us for an evening meeting on sheep abortion with guest speaker Alex Ashworth from MSD Animal Health.



Thursday 16th May
7.30pm
Marchington
Woodlands Village
Hall

Lights refreshments will be provided. Please call the Farm Office on 01889 567200 to book a place.

