

Priority 1

Support to increase farm productivity

Total available funding: €461,004.00 (2015 – 2020)

Applications must be for at least £2,500 with a maximum grant amount of £40,000. In exceptional circumstances a higher grant amount may be awarded to projects which demonstrate exceptional economic outputs including job creation. The maximum intervention rate is 40%.

Please note, de minimis state aid regulations mean that a maximum of €200,000 is available to any one applicant in any 3-year period. If an applicant has other public funding, this may count towards the de minimis amount and reduce the amount of money they can apply for.

These grants will support a wide range of farm investments, particularly for businesses that want to invest in innovative business practices and new technologies to help them become more sustainable and productive. There are three main types of project which could be supported;

- a project to improve the overall performance and sustainability of an agricultural holding
- an investment to support animal health and welfare improvements
- the processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products

A project to improve the overall performance and sustainability of an agricultural holding

Who can apply?

- Farmers
- groups of farmers

Eligibility;

Applications for grants could include;

- Equipment and machinery to improve the efficiency of the use of energy, water, fertilizer and other direct inputs
- Equipment and machinery to reduce impacts on soils
- Investment to improve facilities for slurry/manure management
- Investment to modernise or mechanise production and increase productivity

Costs could include;

- Construction costs, acquisition or improvement to immovable property
- The purchase, hire purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment
- General costs such as architect, engineer and consultation fees (limited to 15% of projects total eligible costs)
- Intangible investments including acquisition or development of computer software
- Acquisition of patents, licenses, copyrights, trademarks.
- Investment to modernise or mechanise production and increase productivity

An investment to support animal health and welfare improvements

Who can apply?

- Farmers
- groups of farmers

Eligibility;

Applications for grants could include;

- Equipment and machinery to improve the efficiency of use of animal feed and other products
- Improvements of livestock housing to improve animal welfare or energy efficiency
- Equipment and machinery to improve animal handling

Costs could include;

- Construction costs, acquisition or improvement to immovable property
- The purchase, hire purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment
- General costs such as architect, engineer and consultation fees (limited to 15% of projects total eligible costs)
- Intangible investments including acquisition or development of computer software
- Acquisition of patents, licenses, copyrights, trademarks.
- Investment to modernise or mechanise production and increase productivity

The processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products

Who can apply?

- Farmers
- Land owners
- Processing businesses

Eligibility;

Applications for grants could include;

- Investment in equipment, technologies, or processes to reduce waste
- Investment in equipment, technologies or processes to develop new or higher quality products
- Business start-ups
- Marketing activity, excluding hard copy material, associated with the above investments
- Construction or conversion of buildings to be used for processing activities.

Costs could include;

- Construction costs, acquisition or improvement to immovable property
- The purchase or hire purchase of new and second hand equipment, machinery and equipment
- General costs such as architect, engineer and consultation fees
- The purchase, hire purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment (limited to 15% of projects total eligible costs)
- Intangible investments including acquisition or development of computer software
- Acquisition of patents, licences, copyrights, trademarks
- Intangible investments including acquisition or development of computer software
- Acquisition of patents, licenses, copyrights, trademarks.
- Investment to modernise or mechanise production and increase productivity