



**New Entrant Farming Opportunity**

**Land at:**

**Faery Isles, Knapdale.**

Introduction

A 10 point action plan aimed at kick-starting a new generation of farmers by dramatically increasing the number of starter opportunities on public land was published on the 23 November 2016. New Farming Starter Opportunities on Publicly Owned Land report can be accessed here <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/11/2861>.

The recommendations, contained in the final report of a short life industry-led group, sets out how start-up grants, access to Basic Payments allied to advice and skills programmes can facilitate entry and allow individuals to develop.

Henry Graham, Chair of the group said:

“It was clear to all members of the group that new entrants are highly desirable and access to land is a key requirement. Those seeking to enter agriculture often require assistance to get on the first step of the farming ladder and the review found there is a supply of starter opportunities on publicly owned land. I now look forward to coordinating the New Entrants Opportunities Programme highlighted in the report.”

The Farming Opportunities for New Entrants (FONE) Group has now been set up and is working with Public Bodies to increase the opportunities for New Entrants on Publicly Owned Land.

Scottish Government has a desire to see publicly owned land used to give opportunities to New Entrants to Agriculture and those progressing from New Entrant status. Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) has already contributed to this by the creation of a large number of new entrant opportunities. It has now been recognised that the first foot on the farming ladder is a level below the original model of Starter Farms and therefore public bodies are being asked to give consideration to New Entrants on other agricultural land letting opportunities.

FLS will do this by weighting the scoring of applications in favour of suitably qualified New Entrants, and those progressing from New Entrant status, wherever we think they can contribute to our wider objectives.

FLS is an executive agency of the Scottish Government, and manages Scotland’s National Forests and Land on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Scotland’s National Forests and Land is one of our greatest assets, providing economic, social and environmental benefits to the people of Scotland. The vision set out in the [FLS Corporate Plan](https://forestryandland.gov.scot/images/corporate/corporate-plan/FLS-Corporate-Plan-2019-2022.pdf) (2019-2022) is *‘forests and land that Scotland can be proud of’* and our mission is ‘to *look after Scotland’s national forests & land, for the benefit of all, now and for the future’*. In looking after this important national asset, FLS will take opportunities to increase its agricultural use, where this is consistent with wider objectives.

We receive funding from Scottish Government and report to the Scottish Ministers. Fergus Ewing MSP is Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for Agriculture and Forestry. We work with the Scottish Government to deliver the [Scottish Forestry Strategy](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/) and also contribute to many aspects of wider Scottish Government policy such as energy, environment and climate change, biodiversity, healthy living, rural transport, tourism and education.

More information is available on our website at [www.forestryandland.gov.scot](http://www.forestryandland.gov.scot)

Farming Opportunity.

Land at Faery Isles, Knapdale.

We are offering an agricultural opportunity at Faery Isles where Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) consider that their environmental objectives can be met by way of low input/output farming methods and invite proposals from parties who would be interested in undertaking complimentary grazing over these areas, subject to the following conditions.

The area will be offered initially on a Grazing Licence.

Subject to satisfactory performance FLS retain the right to negotiate with the winning bidders with a view to extending/renewing the initial licence.

Licence period will be 15th April 2021 to 31st October 2021.

FLS considers fencing and other fixed equipment to be in suitable condition for the purpose of the licence. Bidders are to satisfy themselves of this and will be responsible for maintaining the fixed equipment for the duration of the licence.

Farming methods must be low input/output in order to encourage and promote desired flora and fauna.

This is expected to include.

* + No reseeding by any means will be permitted.
	+ No artificial fertilisers to be applied.
	+ No organic manures to be imported from off the holding.
	+ Cutting, burning or any other mechanical intervention will not be permitted, unless authorised in advance in writing.
	+ Grazing will be for up to 20 cattle of hardy native breed only.
	+ The winning bidder will be expected to maintain the fencing that will be sufficiently stock proof for the class of animal grazed.
	+ No calving cows, bulls, or calves less than 3 months of age will be permitted.

The Area

The grazing area extends to approximately 69.38 ha as is marked on the attached plan.

**Conservation Interests**

The project requires up to 20 cattle of hardy native breed for vegetation management including bracken suppression to encourage the restoration and regeneration of native woodland within the designated conservation area. The site is included in the Knapdale Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to reflect its conservation value and also has a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) archaeological site. The management plan is for no supplementary feeding.

Application Form

**Personal Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Address |  |
| Post Code |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Mobile number |  |
| Email Address |  |
|  |  |
| References | Please supply the names of two references who can vouch for your character and experience |
| Reference 1 | Name |  |
|  | Address |  |
|  | Phone |  |
|  | Email |  |
| Reference 2 | Name |  |
|  | Address |  |
|  | Phone |  |
|  | Email |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FLS or other parts of Scottish Government may wish to contact you regarding other New Entrant opportunities.Please indicate if you are content for your details to be released for this. | **Yes/No**Delete as appropriate |

**Scoring**

Proposals will be scored against FONE priorities, FLS environmental & agricultural objectives, and rental offer using the undernoted matrix.

Please start to type in the grey box and it will expand to fit as required.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Scoring range | ScoreFLS USE ONLY |
| 1. Grounds for mandatory rejection  |  |  |
| **1.1 Animal welfare** | Are you currently banned from keeping livestock or have you been subject to an animal cruelty conviction. |  |
| *1.1 Answer* | Yes/No | Pass/Fail |
| **1.2. Insurance** | Do you have, or will you obtain prior to entry, suitable Public Liability Insurance cover (Min £5m) |  |
| *1.2.Answer* | Yes/No | Pass/Fail |
|  |  |  |
| **2.1 New Entrant Status**FLS have committed to give preference to New Entrants and those progressing from New Entrant status, although others may apply for this opportunity. Applications from existing farm businesses on owner-occupied farms or secure tenancies will not score highly in this section. To score highly here, the applicant will need to demonstrate how this opportunity allows the establishment of a new agricultural unit or the progression/development of a relatively recently established one. Applicants who are not new entrants should still provide an answer describing their current farming status as this will attract some score, as opposed to no answer which will receive a score of zero. | 0 - 5 - No Response or Totally Inadequate 6 - 10 - Major Reservations or Constraints11 - 15 - Some Reservations or Constraints16 - 20 - Fully Compliant21 - 25 - Exceeds Requirements |  |
| *2.1 – Answer:*      |
| **2.2 Exit Strategy**For us to continue to offer the unit as an opportunity in the future we need to understand how you plan to progress and move on to a new opportunity elsewhere at the end of the lease term. | 0 - 5 - No Response or Totally Inadequate 6 - 10 - Major Reservations or Constraints11 - 15 - Some Reservations or Constraints16 - 20 - Fully Compliant21 - 25 - Exceeds Requirements |  |
| *2.2 Answer:*      |
| **2.3 Farming System**Please outline the farming system you will employ. This will include making reference to the breeds and class of livestock, supplementary feeding methods and how you will manage the stock on a day to day basis.You should include narrative on how these practices will fit with our environmental objectives.You should include a brief description of your farming experience, which could include reference to other similar work you have undertaken. You should include description of any equipment or facilities that you already have to help deliver your proposed farming system. | 0 - 5 - No Response or Totally Inadequate 6 - 10 - Major Reservations or Constraints11 - 15 - Some Reservations or Constraints16 - 20 - Fully Compliant21 - 25 - Exceeds Requirements |  |
| *2.3* *Answer:*       |
| **3 Rent**This section will be judged against realism, affordability, flexibility and any other justification you have provided.Justification should explain how you have arrived at the rental figure you are offering. It may be appropriate to make reference to land type/quality, productive capacity, local market rents or affordability in relation to the farming system proposed.  | 0 - 5 - No Response or Totally Inadequate 6 - 10 - Major Reservations or Constraints11 - 15 - Some Reservations or Constraints16 - 20 - Fully Compliant21 - 25 - Exceeds Requirements |  |
| *3.1. Rental amount:* | Please insert rental offer. This should be the total per annum. | £ |
| *3.2. Rental Justification:*      |
| Total Score (FLS use only) | Maximum 100 points |  |

Answers may be continued on a separate sheet but must be cross referenced to the paragraph numbering used above.

**Interviews** – FLS reserves the right to call a shortlist of candidates to interview. Should interviews be held, scoring may be amended according to interview performance. Should interviews be required these will be held on a date to be confirmed following application closing date.

**Applications to be e-mailed to:** **Raymond.mundie@forestryandland.gov.scot**

**Queries relating to the site to:** **John.taylor@forestryandland.gov.scot**

Applications **to be received by 12 noon on 02/04/21** and marked **“Application for Faery Isles Farming Opportunity, not to be opened until 1 p.m. on 02/04/21”.**