

Farming Connect Cumbria

Monitoring Analysis

September 2007

Tender Document



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Farming Connect Cumbria Monitoring Analysis

1. Introduction

Farming Connect Cumbria (FCC) is a farm business development programme which provides business advice, environmental advice, technical guidance and capital grants to farmers throughout Cumbria. The aim of the project is to improve farm sustainability through integrated business, environmental and wider practices, and contribute to a net increase in Cumbria's GVA.

FCC's core activity involves farmers working with advisers to produce sustainable development plans, which include in many cases the option to apply for capital grants or technical consultancy grants. [See appendix 1]

The FCC programme runs from July 2004 to June 2008 and provides advice and grants to over 1,500 farming businesses in Cumbria. It has been funded by approximately £9.7 million of Cumbria Vision (formerly Rural Regeneration Cumbria) funding from the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA) single regeneration budget, leveraging in over £10m private investment from the applicants. FCC is managed by Cumbria Farm Link which is part of Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA).

Farming Connect Cumbria is currently undergoing a full evaluation by SAC's Research Department. The outcome of this additional project will supplement SAC's findings.

2. The Proposal

- It is intended that all farms on the FCC programme are monitored once they have produced their Sustainable Development Plan and / or received a grant. The monitoring data is collected on standard forms (a sample form is attached) and we are accumulating a useful bank of information. The analysis of the data collected during monitoring is the focus of this tender.
- The contractor will be expected to read, record, interpret and analyse all the monitoring data from between 1200 and 1500 farm businesses; trends may be validated by accessing other data made available in the FCC office. Much of the work is likely to be carried out in the office at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency. Sensitive handling of confidential client data will be essential, and the Data Protection Act must be complied with at all times.
- Direct contact with a representative sample of farmers may be required through a focus group or the like.
- This project may be appropriate for a postgraduate or experienced undergraduate in agriculture, agricultural economics, land management, rural development or other appropriate discipline. However any suitable tender will be considered. The individual(s) involved will need sound practical farming knowledge.
- The output of the project will be a report which sets out the results of the analysis in such a way as to provide sound evidence on which to base future farm support programmes in Cumbria.
- The work must be started by **1st November 2007** and completed by **31st May 2008**.
- As a guide, the budget will be around **£10,000** excluding VAT

3. Selection Criteria

Interested contractors are invited to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the brief
2. Demonstrate their practical knowledge and understanding of Cumbrian farming
3. Provide an outline of methodology and approach to completing the project
4. Confirm timetable for delivery
5. Provide full CV(s) of individual(s) proposed to work on this project and examples of relevant previous experience in this field
6. Provide a detailed budget breakdown, including day rates and any other anticipated expenditure

4. Tender requirements

1 electronic and 1 signed hard copy of the tender document should be submitted, marked **FCC Monitoring Tender** and sent to Nancy Tweddell, Cumbria Farm Link Manager, Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Rural Enterprise Centre, Redhills, Penrith CA11 0DT
email nancy@crea.co.uk

By 12.00 (noon) on Friday 28th September 2007

5. Basis for selection

Tenders will be evaluated on the basis of:

- conformity to requirements, and timetable for actions
- appropriateness of individuals undertaking the contract, and their methodology
- realism and balance in the allocation of time and resources
- value for money.

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You will be notified of the outcome of the tendering process by **Friday 12th October 2007**.

If you require any further information, please contact Nancy Tweddell on 01768 891444

