

Giles Wheeler-Bennett

CHARTERED SURVEYORS & LAND AGENTS

COUNTRYSIDE PRODUCTIVITY SMALL GRANTS' SCHEME

A new RDPE grant scheme offering £15 million of small grants for a range of equipment and technology to be used on farms was launched at the beginning of February. There is a very short window as applications are due in by midday on **14 March 2018**.

Grants are available for a specified range of equipment which is listed in Annex 3 of the main handbook and only items included in this Annex are eligible. All the items included in the scheme have been identified as helping achieve improvements in either:

- animal welfare
- resource efficiency or
- nutrient management.

Each item in the Annex has a minimum specification and has been given a standard cost which is the maximum fixed price which the RDPE will pay grant towards which simplifies the application process as it means there is no need to provide any quotations for items. Whilst there are minimum specifications for items there are no maximum specifications so whilst you could buy an item that exceeds the minimum specification you will still only receive a grant based on the standard cost. Second hand and lease/hire-purchased items are not eligible and the remainder of the project costs must be paid for with money from private sources (eg: existing funds/bank loan).

There is a simple on-line application process and applications will be scored after the closing date.

Initial responses from the RDPE have shown a good take-up across the country of this grant scheme with customers confirming the application process is easy to use. However initial advice from the RDPE suggests that there are also some errors being made with SBI and CRN numbers and that it is important to check that any email address used is approved for use and already registered with the RPA to avoid potential rejection of an application.

We are advised that the intention is that there will be further rounds of grants later in the year. Should you require further information or assistance with this application round, please contact this office.



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