

SUPPORT FOR MICRO & SMALL ENTERPRISES AND FARM DIVERSIFICATION

Total programme budget (at 2015): **£724,657**

Programme Targets	
No. of Projects	33
No. of Businesses or Holdings Benefitting	33
No. of Jobs Created	61

Local priorities:

To support and encourage the growth of existing rural micro and small businesses (1-49 full time employees)

To support the development of new businesses

To develop rural supply chains and markets to retain and boost the economic benefit to the area

Grant:

Minimum £2,500, maximum grant amount is £75,000 or 40%, whichever is the lower

Who can apply?

- Micro and small businesses based in rural locations, including social enterprises
- People who want to start a business that is in a rural area
- Farming businesses that want to diversify (expand into non-farming activities)

What is eligible?

Grants can be used for:

- Starting a new business
- Construction costs or establishment costs for workshops, factories, premises and facilities
- Purchasing equipment (not consumables)
- Processing and marketing of non-agricultural products

Web: www.leader5.co.uk **Phone:** 01237 426423 **Email:** leader5@northdevonplus.co.uk

Please note: this is a summary document – full details can be found in the Applicant Handbook

- Processing and marketing of agricultural products

Costs could include:

- Construction acquisition (including leasing) or improvement to immovable property
- The purchase or hire purchase of new and second hand machinery and equipment
- General costs such as architect, engineer and consultation fees (restricted to a maximum of 15% of total project costs)
- Intangible investments including acquisition or development of computer software
- Acquisition of patents, licences, copyrights and trademarks

Ineligible costs:

- In-kind contributions
- Costs for standard agricultural equipment & inputs, like animals & annual crops
- Cost of agricultural production rights & payment entitlements;
- Cost of getting any consents needed, for example planning permission;
- Costs for anything that's a standard industry obligation, for example requirements of the Basic Payment Scheme
- Costs that are incurred before the date of the grant funding agreement;
- Financial charges, such as interest, fines and maintenance;
- Reclaimable VAT;
- Any items the applicant already gets EU or national funding for;
- Projects the applicant is required to do by law or to meet a legal requirement;
- Like-for-like replacements;
- Costs connected with a leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges;
- Salaries, running costs;
- Relocation of the business;
- Own labour;
- Licence fees, subscriptions and service charges;
- Standard computer and mobile equipment; and
- Costs for renewable heat and energy systems covered by the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) or Feed-In Tariffs (FITs) aren't eligible.

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