



Rural Development Programme for England

Welcome

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Welcome to the latest 'new look' RDPE newsletter and apologies that it has been some time since the last one. The programme is now fully operational and SEEDA staff have been very busy processing expressions of interest and applications. Details of some of the schemes and projects which have been approved are provided in this newsletter.

In addition, we have pro-

vided some guidance on where to apply for funding and developed a postcode tool which will help you to establish if you are located within a Leader area.

Throughout the newsletter you will notice that all information regarding the RDPE is available on the SEEDA website but you can also contact the team and you will find all the teams contact details on the back page.

Finally we would appreciate your feedback on this newsletter. We plan to produce a newsletter every quarter and would particularly welcome suggestions for what you would like to see in future editions. Please e-mail your comments to Helen Dallas at

helendallas@seeda.co.uk

Successful Leader Groups Announced

To view a map of the successful Leader areas in the South East and to find out LAG contact details please visit <http://www.seeda.co.uk/rdpe/leader/index>

SEEDA has awarded **£29 million** of RDPE funding to **14 Leader Local Action Groups (LAGs)** and most groups have now received their contract and have started to promote that funds are available. Each LAG will receive delegated funding of between £1.6 and £2.6 million for the period 2008 to 2013. The LAGs will assess applications for funding against

their local priorities and will be able to make grant awards of **up to £50,000**. The funding will cover a wide range of activities such as farm diversification, tourism activities, renewable energy projects, forestry projects, village renewal, support for micro businesses and rural heritage.

The successful Local Action Groups are:

- Aylesbury Vale & Rural Milton Keynes
- Chilterns
- Isle of Wight
- Kent Downs & Marshes
- Loddon & Evesley
- New Forest
- North Wessex Downs
- Southern Oxfordshire
- Surrey Hills
- Sussex Downs & Low Weald
- Three Harbours & Coastal Plain
- Wealden & Rother
- West Kent
- Winchester & East Hampshire





Training

£3.2 Million Investment in Pan-Regional Training Programmes. SEEDA has awarded contracts to **Rbat/LANTRA consortium** and **Westpoint Veterinary Group Ltd** to deliver vocational training to people engaged in agriculture, horticulture and forestry as well as a focus on animal health and welfare.

Landskills South East

For more information
please visit
[www.lantra.co.uk/
LandskillsSouthEast](http://www.lantra.co.uk/LandskillsSouthEast)

Landskills South East is an extensive vocational training programme targeted primarily at people engaged in agriculture, horticulture and forestry. Training will be delivered through a consortium of 24 training providers in the region including Agricultural Colleges, Local Training Groups, Independent Trainers and Consultants

and will be heavily subsidized. The programme is being coordinated and managed by the **rbat/LANTRA consortium** between Lantra, the sector skills council for environment and land based businesses and the Rural Business Advice and Training (rbat) network.

For more information please visit the Landskills

South East website or contact **Shelley Newton** who has been appointed as the regional coordinator.

The contact details are:

E-mail:
landskills@lantra.co.uk

Tel: 01444 871436



For more information please visit—
www.livestockhealthsoutheast.org.uk

Livestock Health South East

Livestock Health South East is an innovative approach to improve animal health and welfare across the South East of England. Livestock farmers will be able to access the most up-to-date information to help them maintain and improve the health of their stock, ensuring the sustainability of farming in the region. Farmers can choose to attend meetings

and discussion groups, complete on-line training and receive one-to-one veterinary advice, all tailored to meet their needs. The Livestock Health South East programme is being managed by the **Westpoint Veterinary Group** and involves a number of other training providers including the NFU, EBLEX, BPEX, Dairy Co, Kingshay, NADIS and

ADAS.

For more information please visit the website or contact the regional coordinator **Lindsay Heasman**.

The contact details are:

E-mail:
info@livestockhealthsoutheast.org.uk

Tel: 07549 843380

Other approved projects

In addition to the two training projects, SEEDA has so far awarded **£3.7 million** to rural businesses in the South East. One project is a substantial expansion of the horticultural packing facilities at Mansfields in Kent. Other projects include four on-farm reservoirs, a woodland contractor, expansion of a co-operative's grain storage facilities, a forestry centre, refurbishment of an abattoir and an on-farm food processing kitchen.

An extension of the **Hidden Britain South East** project has also been supported under RDPE for two years. The project will help small rural villages to unlock tourism potential. More information on Hidden Britain South East can be found on the website www.hiddenbritainse.org.uk

Or by contacting the Regional Coordinator James Turner:

E-mail: hiddenbritaindm@sercc.org.uk

Tel: 07841 584985

One of the on-farm reservoirs is at Style Place Farm and work on the reservoir is well underway. If any farmers are thinking of improving their on-farm water storage then please discuss your ideas with Neville Sherlock on 01634 899134.



Work underway on the reservoir at Style Place Farm

Where to apply for funding

If your project is seeking **more than £50,000** in grant and is collaborative or will have benefits for a number of rural businesses then please apply directly to SEEDA. Projects relating to forestry, renewable energy and/or water management should also apply directly to SEEDA regardless of the size of grant and whether you are in a Leader area or not.

For further information, please see the RDPE prospectus at www.seeda.co.uk/RDPE/Guidance_for_Farmers_Horticulturalists_and_Foresters/index.asp

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In addition, Farm Diversification projects into non-agricultural activities which are located outside of a Leader area and require less than £50,000 of grant funding should now also apply directly to SEEDA.

All projects direct to SEEDA will need to complete an Expression of Interest form which can also be downloaded from the website or by contacting Helen Dallas.

Alternatively you may wish to discuss your ideas with us. All the team member contact details are provided on the last page of this newsletter.

Projects seeking **£50,000 or less** which are located within a Leader area should contact their Local Action Group (LAG). To find out if you are in a Leader area we have developed a postcode tool which you will find on the SEEDA website, along with maps and all the LAG contact details.

Please note that all grants are discretionary and competitive and there is no guarantee of funding.

To find out if you are in a Leader area please visit the SEEDA website:

www.seeda.co.uk/rdpe/Leader/index.asp

Simplification

We are committed to making the application process as simple as we can.

Many of the processes and forms have to meet EU rules but we will be reviewing these regularly to try to make the processes simpler and faster

RDPE Strategic Programme Manager Appointed

SEEDA Headquarter
Cross Lanes
Guildford
GU1 1YA

Phone: 01483 484200

All information on the RDPE can be found on the SEEDA website:

www.seeda.co.uk/rdpe

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Jacquie Middleton as the new RDPE Strategic Programme Manager in April of this year. Jacquie has a BSc in Agricultural Economic and PhD in Agricultural Marketing from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. She has 20 years experience in consultancy for the agricultural and food sectors both in the UK and overseas, having worked at the MLC, and the Scottish Agricultural College in Aberdeen.

Clients included Defra, EU, Scottish Executive, World Bank, FAO and numerous commercial clients. Prior to joining SEEDA she worked for the National Rural Knowledge Exchange, involved in knowledge transfer between universities, colleges and the rural sector.

More recently the RDPE team has seen the addition of another two members of staff.

They include Anne Higham who previously worked for SEEDA on other rural programmes. Anne will take responsibility for Farm Diversification and Tourism projects direct to RDPE.

And Finally we would like to welcome John Heaton as Assistant Projects Coordinator. John has also previously worked for SEEDA and will provide much needed additional support to the programme.

2009 Regional Appraisal Panel Dates

Applications for funding are considered against the RDPE priorities and objectives. This is done by an independent appraisal panel which is chaired by SEEDA with panel members from Natural England and the Forestry Commission who are key partners in the delivery of RDPE. In order for a project to be considered at a RAP please note that the application will have to be fully completed **at least 2 months** before the RAP date.

Cut off date for submission of complete application to SEEDA	Date of Regional Appraisal Panel
2nd December 2008	2nd February 2009
2nd February 2009	1st April 2009
3rd April 2009	3rd June 2009
5th June 2009	5th August 2009
7th August 2009	7th October 2009
2nd October 2009	3rd December 2009

RDPE Team - Roles and Contact Details

Name	Role	E-mail	Telephone Number
Jacquie Middleton	Strategic Programme Manager	jacquemiddleton@seeda.co.uk	01483 484207
Helen Dallas	Projects Coordinator	helendallas@seeda.co.uk	01483 484297
John Heaton	Assistant Projects Coordinator	johnheaton@seeda.co.uk	01483 500769
Barry Willett	Leader	barrywillett@seeda.co.uk	07789 171608
Sarah Richards	Leader & Training	sarahrichards@seeda.co.uk	01483 470154
Neville Sherlock	Water Management & Adding Value	nevillesherlock@seeda.co.uk	01634 899134
Jonathan King	Livestock, Forestry & Renewable Energy	jonathanking@seeda.co.uk	07789 171621
Anne Higham	Farm Diversification & Tourism	annehigham@seeda.co.uk	01634 899136