



### What is the England Rural Development Programme (the ERDP)?

The ERDP sets out how we are using the European Rural Development Regulation to protect and improve the countryside and to encourage sustainable enterprise and thriving rural communities.

It provides a framework for the operation of 10 measures (some already operating, some new) aimed at protecting the environment and supporting the rural economy and communities. Some of the measures are operated nationally, while others are more regionally focused. The measures are:

- Energy Crops Scheme (new)
- Rural Enterprise Scheme (new)
- Vocational Training Scheme (new)
- Processing & Marketing Grants (new)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme
- Countryside Stewardship Scheme
- Organic Farming Scheme
- Woodland Grant Scheme
- Farm Woodland Premium Scheme
- Hill Farm Allowance Scheme (replacing HLCAs)



- **Are you running a farming or forestry business?**
- **Do you work on a farm or in a forest?**
- **Are you drawing up an England Rural Development Programme project application?**
- **Are you diversifying your business?**

***If the answer to any of these questions is 'YES' the Vocational Training Scheme can help you...***

***...realise your potential.***

**More details about the ERDP can be found on-line at:**

**[www.maff.gov.uk](http://www.maff.gov.uk)**

Vocational Training Scheme

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# Vocational Training Scheme

Information Leaflet



October 2000



### What is the Vocational Training Scheme?

The Vocational Training Scheme (VTS) is a new scheme being introduced by MAFF under the England Rural Development Programme (ERDP).

### What does the VTS offer?

The VTS offers funds for the next 7 years for training that contributes to an improvement in the occupational skills of farmers and others involved in farming and forestry activities and their conversion. This includes training activities in key areas such as:

- Information and communication technology.
- Business development and diversification.
- Marketing.
- Conservation and the environment.

### Who can apply?

Anyone involved in farming or forestry is eligible and can apply. Third parties organising training activities can also apply but they must provide evidence to demonstrate that the final beneficiaries of the training are involved in farming or forestry.



### What information will I need to provide?

All applicants will be required to demonstrate the need for, and the economic, environmental, hygiene or animal welfare benefits of, the proposed training.

### What funding is available?

The VTS will fund up to 75% of eligible costs.

### What sort of projects are eligible?

There is no restriction on the scope of projects. Projects can involve all types of training related activity including the development of additional training facilities where there are gaps in provision.

### How will projects be assessed?

Projects will be assessed against both national and regional criteria to ensure that they are of an appropriate quality and address regional priorities.

### Where can projects be located?

The VTS will be available in all parts of England except those designated as Objective 1 areas, where other arrangements apply.

### Is there a minimum project size?

Yes. We will not normally consider projects that involve less than a total of 20 days of training e.g. 1 person for 20 days or 20 people for 1 day.

### Is anything excluded?

The following activities will not be eligible for aid:

- Full time courses of education and training provided through secondary schools, FE and HE establishments.
- Training leading to qualifications currently required under UK legislation.
- Training activities in receipt of aid under the ESF under Objectives 2 & 3.

### How can I get more details?

Further information and scheme application forms are available from your local MAFF office.