



The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development: Europe  
investing in rural areas



# Herefordshire LEADER Programme 2015-2020

Contact the team on 01432 383023/39 or email [leader@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:leader@herefordshire.gov.uk).

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## Information Sheet

### What is the Herefordshire LEADER Programme?

LEADER is a European grant funding programme which forms part of the Rural Development programme and is managed by Defra. At a local level funding is delivered by a Local Action Group (LAG) and an Accountable Body. Herefordshire LAG has been awarded a contract to deliver grants totaling £1.7m over the next 4 years. The Herefordshire LAG area covers all of rural Herefordshire but excludes all the wards and parishes within Hereford City.

### What will the LEADER Programme do?

The main objective is to create jobs and economic growth by supporting rural businesses.

The programme themes are:

- Support for micro and small enterprises, including farm diversification
- Support for rural tourism
- Support for increasing farm productivity
- Support for increasing forestry provision
- Provision of rural services
- Support for cultural and heritage activities

### Who can apply?

Project applications will be eligible from:

- Micro and small businesses
- Qualifying micro and small farming and forestry businesses
- Social enterprises
- Voluntary organisations
- Community groups
- Parish councils based in rural Herefordshire

For the purposes of the LEADER programme a micro business has between 0 and 9 employees, whilst a small business has between 10 and 49 employees.

## How will I know if our project is eligible?

LEADER funding contributes to around 40% of total project costs. Cash match funding will be needed for around 60% of each project. This is a predominantly capital grant programme. Training, skills and running costs are not eligible for funding. Business addresses must be registered in the Herefordshire LEADER area.

Each project should read the Herefordshire LEADER Handbook please follow link to our webpage for further details of eligible and ineligible costs: [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leader](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leader)

## What outputs could my project achieve?

An output is a measurable assessment of performance and success.

The main outputs for the programme are:

- Jobs created
- Businesses or holdings benefitting

## How much can we apply for?

Projects may be eligible for a grant of £2,500 up to a maximum of normally £35,000 to fund specific activities. Higher grants may be awarded to projects demonstrating exceptional output levels.

## How do we apply?

The LEADER application process is a two-stage process. A LEADER Outline Application is submitted and endorsed prior to the preparation and submission of a LEADER Full Application. Please see Herefordshire LEADER Handbook for further details of the application process. **However, we strongly advise you contact a member of the programme team to discuss your project prior to submitting an outline application.**

## What happens then?

If the Full Application is successful and a project is approved for funding, the Herefordshire LAG will send the applicant a grant funding agreement. It will explain when work can start on the project and the terms and conditions.

## When can we start the project?

Applicants must not start work, make any deposits, order or buy anything for a project until they have received a grant funding agreement from the Herefordshire LAG with an official start date. If they don't wait for the official start date, the Herefordshire LAG will withdraw the grant offer.

## How is the grant paid?

The Herefordshire LAG will send a claim form to the successful applicant, including instructions about what to do next.

Applicants must fill in the claim form and return it with supporting evidence such as invoices, bank statements, photographs of the project, activity or equipment and a progress report explaining what they have done so far and any delays.



**Please help us to help future applicants, by telling us if you have any queries which aren't answered in this document.**

If you would like help to understand this document or would like it in another format or language, please contact the Programme Team on 01432 383023/39 or [leader@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:leader@herefordshire.gov.uk).