

COTSWOLDS LEADER PROGRAMME UPDATE

Summary: To present an update on the progress of the LEADER Programme

Recommendation: That the update report be noted.

Officer Ref: James Webb, LEADER Programme Manager (01451) 862033

Programme Performance

The Programme is fully allocated and has supported 56 projects with a collective grant total of £1,738,527. This investment has created 80 jobs.

In terms of spend, 48 out of our 56 projects have successfully completed their project and claimed their grant. This equates to £1,485,000. We have recently processed claims from:

- Cotswold Seeds towards the FarmED education centre in west Oxfordshire.
- Farmers in receipt of a mobile sheep handling system and a fertiliser spreader.
- Ocean Ecology towards laboratory equipment.

Most of the remaining claims will be processed/ paid by the end of March 2020 i.e. when programme employees are still here.

The team is also working on closure programme related activity including a task to reduce the ongoing administrative burden for CCB.

The RCA – our claims for incurred programme costs – is up to date. We are currently claiming for Q3 Oct-Dec 2019.

Dissemination of programme results – capturing the legacy for the Board

- Production of project case studies and videos, sent to all stakeholders and supporters.
- Website updated from operational (how to apply etc.) to legacy phase; in effect a shop window to celebrate the successes of the programme.
- LEADER beneficiary Jive Pony features in the March edition of Cotswold Life.
- An end of Programme report produced by the end of March.
- The end of Programme event is taking place on 20 March at FarmED, west Oxfordshire.

Friday 20 March event at FarmED

The event will be held in the education building at FarmED, the new Centre for Farming and Food Education. It is a fantastic space and its construction was supported by a Cotswolds LEADER grant. FarmED's mission is to accelerate the transition towards regenerative farming and sustainable food systems by providing space and opportunity for inspirational education, innovative research, practitioner led knowledge exchange events, and personal development. All of our stakeholders have been invited to the event, as well as beneficiaries and supporters and friends of the programme. An update on the guest-list and running order will be provided at the meeting.