

# AHDBGRASS

## Developing Grass Expertise programme

### Information Sheet

#### Background

Grassland is a fundamental crop for British agriculture and covers 64% of all agricultural land. One of AHDB's priorities is to improve Farm Performance and grassland underpins the ruminant sectors. One of the key ways to deliver this priority is for AHDB to ensure that experienced consultants and advisers continue to be available to the dairy, beef and sheep industry and help upskill this network in grassland management techniques.

The 2021-22 Developing Grass Expertise Programme (DGE) aims to produce a group of trained consultants and advisers. It is therefore important that anyone applying for this programme is available to deliver support around grazing management once the programme has been completed.

#### The Programme

The 2021-22 DGE programme aims to recruit anyone looking to develop their knowledge, skills and competence to produce and utilise grazed grass and silage to help support levy payers.

A total of five sessions will take place over the 12-month programme, covering various topics around grassland productivity/management, these include:

- Economics of grass as part of the system
- Grazing management and tools
- Nutrition & fertility at grass
- Winter feeding options (e.g., all grass outwintering)
- Animal & soil health
- Breeding and genetics
- Professional skills e.g., communication, facilitation, presentation, knowledge dissemination

By the end of the programme you will:

- Understand how grass can play an important part within all management systems
- Understand how the grass plant grows and nutrition at grass
- Be confident in using current software, tools and resources related to grassland management
- Prepare a grazing and feed budget plan for the year including winter feeding options
- Be up to date with recent advances in animal health, soil health, animal and plant genetics
- Have a clear understanding of how to disseminate your new grass expertise

On completion of the 2021-22 DGE programme delegates will receive:

- CPD points appointed by all relevant training providers (e.g., RoSA, RCVS, BASIS, BIAC etc.)
- A DGE certificate
- AHDB Grass toolbox including an USB with complete slide deck from the programme
- Opportunity to work with regional AHDB Knowledge Exchange Managers to deliver the grass campaign

The five sessions will be a hybrid delivery of online and in person sessions which will be held in different regions across GB. The sessions will provide opportunities for interactive discussion, hands-on experience of measuring grass and using grazing budgeting software as well as the chance to see it all in practice on some experience rotational grazing farms. Where appropriate, the group may be split into livestock specific sub-groups for some of the sessions.

#### Duration of project

Applications will open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 and will close on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

#### Timeline of the meetings:

Meeting Number	Date	Location
1	12 - 13 October 2021 (9-1pm on both days)	Online
2	1 - 2 February 2022*	Midlands
3	10 – 11 May 2022*	South West Scotland
4	28 – 29 June 2022*	South East
5	27 – 28 September 2022*	North West

\*Exact dates subject to change

#### Cost

It is expected that each successful applicant contributes £800 towards the cost of running the programme and training materials. Once the applicant has learnt of their success, they will be asked to pay £400 to secure a place. After the first three meetings there will be a break clause whereby those wishing to continue with the programme, for the remaining two meetings, will be required to pay a further £400.

Each delegate will also be expected to pay for their own bed and breakfast costs. AHDB will cover the costs for organising the programme meetings.

#### Application process

Please complete the application form and return it to [siwan.howatson@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:siwan.howatson@ahdb.org.uk) before the deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. There is limited capacity for the programme and applicants will be informed of their success by 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021.