

Women in Agriculture: Business Skills Training Focus groups final report

This report outlines the findings of research carried out in 2022 to inform the development of two new business skills courses for women in Scottish agriculture, to be delivered as part of the Women in Agriculture Development Programme.

What did we do?

Four online focus groups took place in March and May 2022 with a total of 20 participants. The groups included women who work on crofts, farms and in agricultural businesses across Scotland. They provided feedback on the course design and their training needs.

What did we find out?



Women carry out a range of financial tasks on crofts and farms, and in agricultural businesses. The majority are 'self-taught' and have not had any formal training.



Participants gave positive feedback on the course outline, and the option to progress from basic finance skills to in-depth business knowledge.



There is a clear need for business skills training for women in agriculture, to provide them with practical finance tools, clear guidance and further support.



The courses will focus on topics of interest to women in agriculture including diversification, sustainability and environmental impacts in crofting and farming.



Women with businesses of different sizes, from crofts to farms, have different training needs, both in terms of daily financial tasks and long-term decision-making.



Women - particularly new entrants - will benefit from being part of a support network of other women in agriculture to share business advice and support.





What will we do next?

We will take the feedback provided by focus group participants into account in planning the design and delivery of two new business skills courses for women in Scottish agriculture, including the topics covered and the time of the year they are offered. The courses will be delivered through the Women in Agriculture Development Programme 2022-24.

Where can you find out more?

There is more information about the Women in Agriculture programme, including courses that are currently available here: [Women in Agriculture \(ruralpayments.org\)](http://ruralpayments.org)

Or you can find out more about the Women in Agriculture Practical Training Fund here: [Women in Agriculture Practical Training Fund | Lantra - Scotland](#)



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