

Farm Business Opportunities			
Module Code:	HSOR4012	CAT credits:	10
Mode of delivery:	Blended Learning	NQF Level:	4
Owning Institute:	Institute of Science and Environment	HECoS Code:	100517
Validation Start Date:	August 2022		

Aims of the Module
The aim of this module is to develop your knowledge of upland farm business planning and the impacts of entering environmental land management schemes.

Intended Learning Outcomes
On successful completion, you will be able to:
1. Complete a baseline financial enterprise analysis to show gross margin, fixed costs and net profit.
2. List economic considerations for environmentally sustainable and regenerative farming practices, in the upland context.
3. Model the impact on farm finances of entering one or more environmental land management (ELM) schemes.
4. Describe opportunities for on-farm diversification in upland areas.
5. Review funding opportunities and justify relevant schemes to apply for.

Indicative Module Content
These aspects of your module content are shown as indicative of the approach planned and as such might reasonably be expected to change and be updated over time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to farm accounts and business planning including use of suitable spreadsheets, concepts such as gross margins, fixed and variable costs and net profit. • Benchmarking and modelling financial scenarios. • Farm planning for environmental sustainability and resilient farm businesses including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tax and tenancy implications; - regenerative grazing economics in the uplands; - maximum sustainable output - on-farm energy generation • Economic opportunities through Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes • Blending public and private finance opportunities – opportunities and risks • Opportunities for on-farm diversification in upland areas

Indicative Student Workload (hours)
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Tutor Led Live	4
External Visits	8
Practical Classes and Workshops	8
Guided Independent Study	80

Formative Assessment –

Formative assessment provides an opportunity for you to receive feedback on work as part of your learning for the module. Formative work does not have marks awarded that contribute to the final module mark.

1. A self-assessment exercise will be provided upon registration for the module, to be completed prior to the first taught session. This will guide the student through an audit of the key skills and knowledge encountered in the module. The outcomes will assist the student to select the most appropriate reference resources and allocate independent study time effectively. The outcomes will also assist the tutor in pitching and differentiating the teaching according to the needs and prior experiences of the cohort and individuals.
2. The module tutor will provide formative verbal feedback during practical classes/workshops and fieldwork.
3. Opportunities for formative feedback through peer discussion will be provided at times during workshops and live tutor-led sessions online.

Summative Assessment –

Summative assessment provides the opportunity for you to demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes for the module.

	Length/size of the assessment	ILOs assessed	% Weighting	Is anonymous marking possible?	Core element?#
Portfolio	1500 equivalent	All	pass/fail	No	Yes

By default, your final module grade will be an aggregated mark. However, if this box is marked 'yes,' then you *must* also successfully pass this element of assessment in order to pass the module, regardless of the overall aggregated mark. If core element(s) of assessment are failed, the module will not be eligible for compensation. Further information on module compensation is available in the Academic Regulations.

Portfolio Task

- Spreadsheet
- Table
- Accompanying text (500 words)

Marking

The Programme Team have taken the following steps to remove unconscious bias from the assessment process:

- Diversity of prior experience, academic attainment and academic confidence among students joining this module is expected.
- Opportunities to develop the further skills and knowledge required to pass assessment will be provided within the module to all students.
- The assessment methods are chosen to allow flexibility in how students demonstrate the learning outcomes.
- An assessment rubric will be developed to assist in deciding the extent to which learning outcomes are demonstrated, limiting the subjectivity of assessment decisions.

Reassessment

CORE Module Descriptor

Reassessment in the failed component(s) will be undertaken as stated in the Academic Regulations.

Compensation

This module is **not** eligible for compensation (condonation) as a marginal fail within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations.

Indicative Core Bibliography

OneList

https://eu.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/public/44UOC_INST/lists/5808102660002701?auth=SAML

Essential reference resources for this module, listed below are publicly available, free of charge, online. This allows for the continued use of the resources after completion of studies.

Clark, C., Scanlon, B. and Hart, K. (2019) *Less is more: Improving profitability and the natural environment in hill and other marginal farming systems*. Available at:

<https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/documents/hill-farm-profitability-report-pdf.pdf>

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2021). *Farm Performance and Productivity Evidence Pack*. Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955919/fbs-evidencepack-28jan21.pdf

Farm Advisory Service (no date). *Understanding the Accounts – Terminology*. Available at:

<https://www.fas.scot/downloads/understanding-the-accounts-terminology/>

Harvey, D. and Scott, C. (2021). *Farm Business Survey 2019/2020 - Hill Farming in England*. Available at:

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/mediav8/natural-and-environmental-sciences/files/Hill%20Farming%20in%20England%2019_20.pdf

Holt, A. and Morris, J. (2020) *Plugging the income gap: Assessing environmental options for upland farms: A case study in Pendle Hill, Lancashire*. Available at:

https://www.pendlehillproject.com/sites/default/files/images/FINAL_Pendle%20Hill%20Whats%20a%20Hill%20Worth%20Report_130121.pdf

The Pasture-Fed Livestock Association (2016). *Pasture for Life, it can be done - The farm business case for feeding ruminants just pasture*. Available at:

<https://www.pastureforlife.org/news/pasture-for-life-it-can-be-done/>

Stand-Alone Study

Students who successfully complete this module as a stand-alone module will be eligible for a University transcript of credit.