Are you an ambitious farmer, rural business manager or employee involved in running or working in a small to medium sized business in Scotland?

- Are you looking to develop your leadership skills and grow your business?
- Do you want to do something positive for your sector or rural Scotland?
- Do you think you are too busy to take time off to develop your skills?

If your answers are yes, then the Scottish Enterprise’s Rural Leadership Programme is absolutely right for you. Join us by applying for a place on the eleventh run of a programme that now has a network of over 500 graduates.

Background

Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise have joined forces to fund another three year run of this unique and challenging programme, which is aimed at business managers and employees from rural businesses who have a desire to develop their skills and grow their business.

Facilitators SAC Consulting are leading the drive to recruit 45 applicants from the Scottish Enterprise area and 15 applicants from the HIE area for a 6 month series of workshops and events running from late October 2018 to early March 2019.

There are no boundaries to application – we have had everything from young people early in their careers to managing directors. The main requirement is ambition and a strong desire to improve your business and the rural sector.

Find out more

Come along to one of our Information Evenings and learn more about the programme from the facilitators and programme graduates. Attendance is highly recommended, and will give you a much better appreciation of the programme and what it can do for you.

All meetings 7.30-9.30pm (refreshments from 7.15pm). We intend to organise web based conference calls for those who can’t make the meetings.

Contact Aileen.carr@sac.co.uk to confirm your attendance and help our planning.
Feedback and benefits

Feedback on recent programmes has been excellent and the impact of this group of highly motivated rural leaders has been recognised by government and other rural institutions. However, the real impact has been the significant transformation of many graduates’ businesses.

- Gaining the confidence to make bold decisions
- Taking a step back to concentrate on leading as well as managing
- Changing roles and delegating to others
- Resolving family issues that hold businesses back
- Taking on an important role within the sector
- Lobbying parliament to change legislation
- Unrivalled networking opportunity with other like-minded, ambitious people

What participants said

“Having completed the course, I feel I have a renewed sense of ambition and optimism about the future of my business, and I feel more equipped to bring about the changes necessary to realise that ambition.”

“A fantastic experience all round that has boosted my confidence dramatically”.

The Programme

Thirteen days of activities between late October 2018 and March 2019. These include;

- Leadership coaching workshops
- One to one business focus sessions
- Business Strategy workshop
- Team working on rural innovation projects
- Learning journeys to Edinburgh, Brussels and London parliaments

Participants will initially join 4 regional groups around Highland (Inverness), North East (Banchory), East and South East (near Edinburgh) and South West (near Ayr) Scotland, then join one large group for later workshops and Learning Journeys.

Eligibility – Priority will be given to those involved in small to medium sized rural enterprises.

Participants fee – the bulk of the costs are covered by Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Island Enterprise with participant fees set at £900+VAT. (Described by many programme graduates as “the best money we have ever spent”).

To apply for this year’s Programme, or have a discussion about eligibility, please contact

General enquiries - Aileen Carr, 01307-464033, aileen.carr@sac.co.uk
Contact facilitators for more detail on programme:
Highland – Siobhan MacDonald, 07979-245880, siobhan.macdonald@sac.co.uk
North East – Kirsten Williams, 07798-617293, kirsten.williams@sac.co.uk
East/South East – Iain Riddell, 07884-118208, iain.riddell@sac.co.uk
South West – Robert Ramsay, 07826-860441, robert.ramsay@sac.co.uk

Closing date - Applications must be submitted by Friday 31st August 2018

Don’t delay! Previous programmes have been oversubscribed