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£500,000 LandSkills South East winter programme announced

LandSkills South East announced today (2 September) that farmers, foresters and growers across the region will benefit from £500,000 of funding this winter.

The programme, managed by Lantra Sector Skills Council, will offer up to 70% funding towards training activities to eligible businesses in the region.

LandSkills South East Programme Manager, Shelley Newton, said: "In times of recession it's not every day that you can announce there is money available for industry to access. We have allocated £500,000 for the winter programme, which ranges from biodiversity, environmental land management, reducing inputs through precision farming, media skills, business health checks, supply chain efficiency, succession planning and more. So there's a huge amount of activity over the winter and up to 70% funding towards the costs."

Since the programme began in September 2008 over 3,800 people have benefited from 800 courses. To date the £2.1m project has funded high level technical training such as agronomy, IT, chainsaw, first aid, health and safety, spraying, marketing, working with other nationalities, and a variety of activities, which provide guest speakers, knowledge transfer and good practice. The winter training programme will also include training opportunities for rural tourism, which includes courses on marketing for rural tourism communities, smarter marketing/marketing your Green Credentials, sourcing local produce and more.

Farmer and beneficiary, Alan Hall from Great Haseley, said: "The training we have accessed through LandSkills South East has been great. It was something we needed and as we are continually investing in the business, every bit of help is welcome."

For more information contact Lantra on 0845 2788800 or email Connect@lantra.co.uk alternatively register your interest at www.lantra.co.uk/LandSkillsSouthEast.