



The Sector Skills Council for the
environmental and land-based sector



Skills, Sustainability and Rural Development: Challenges & Opportunities for the Landbased Industries

Date: Tuesday 6 February 2007
Time: 9.30 am – 3.45 pm
Venue: Oatridge College, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, EH52 6NH

A one day seminar jointly organised by Oatridge College and Lantra exploring the opportunities and challenges facing rural and landbased businesses in Scotland, and the wide range of support on offer to help employers grow their enterprise.

What's it about? This event will highlight the range of new and existing assistance available to help you meet the challenges facing your business, including skills and training, business growth and diversification support, grants and co-funding, knowledge and technology transfer. The programme will also focus on the key strategic issues impacting on the landbased sectors now and over the next few years. Importantly, it aims to illustrate an increasingly 'joined up' approach to the provision of support for the industry from the public support agencies, colleges and training providers, industry bodies and others active in the sector.

Who will benefit? This event will be of interest to all those involved in the broad range of landbased and rural industries in Scotland, particularly employers, sole traders and also industry bodies, sector representative organisations and public support agencies. The organisers have invited a diverse industry audience encompassing all the landbased sectors (including countryside management, agriculture, horticulture, equestrianism, forestry, landscaping, and so on). Many of the industry bodies, sector representative organisations and public support agencies will also be attending.

Our Chair is **Gordon McGlone, Chairman of Lantra**, the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Landbased Industries. Gordon is also Director of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. **Our Principle Speaker** is **Stephen Vickers, Head of Rural Property for Buccleuch Group** and Manager of Bowhill Estate near Selkirk. Stephen will offer us his perspective on the opportunities and challenges facing sustainable growth of landbased businesses in the 21st century

Our Workshops will offer an insight into:

- The support available to new and existing businesses via the enterprise network
- Accessing the range of work-based training for employees in small businesses
- How to finance business development, diversification or expansion
- How landbased colleges and support bodies are working together more closely to help landbased SMEs

***For more information, please contact
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Conference Programme

9.30 - 10.00		
Arrival & Registration		
10.00 - 10.15	Welcome Setting the scene	Robbie Brechin , Oatridge College Chair – Gordon McGlone , Lantra
10.15 - 10.35	Keynote address: Rural Scotland in the 21 st century – opportunities & challenges for landbased businesses	Stephen Vickers , Buccleuch Group
10.35 - 10.50	Sector Skills Agreements: addressing the training needs of the landbased industries	William Fergusson , Lantra
10.50 - 11.05	Scottish Enterprise – supporting business growth in rural communities	Stuart Ogg , Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley
11.05 – 11.25		
Coffee break		
11.25 – 11.40	The Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013: regenerating our rural communities and economies	Dr Ingrid Clayden , SEERAD Rural Development Division
11.40 – 11.55	A changing rural economy – helping landbased SMEs meet the challenge	Jim Booth , Scottish Agricultural Organisations Society
11.55 – 12.10	Supporting sustainability in rural communities – reconnecting with local markets	Jim Mullen , Larder Bytes Ltd
12.10 – 12.30	Q & A session (panel discussion)	Chair
12.30 - 13.45		
Lunch & networking time; viewing of displays		
13.45 - 14.45	1. Business growth and development advice for landbased enterprises – which way to turn?	Simon Fraser , Enterprise North East Trust
Workshops x 4	2. Skillseekers, Modern Apprenticeships, ILA's..... finding your way through the work-based training maze	Derek Grieve , Scottish Executive Derrick Ross , LearnDirect Scotland
	3. How to win a bank over – financing your venture	David Hannon , Clydesdale Bank
	4. The role of the training providers – the Rural Business Forum	Oatridge College / Elmwood College / Barony College / SAC
14.45 – 15.00		
Coffee break		
15.00 – 15.20	Feedback from workshops	Workshop facilitators
15.20 – 15.35	Summing up – a joined up approach to support for the landbased industries	Chair – Gordon McGlone , Lantra
15.35 - 15.45	Closing Remarks & Thanks	David James , Oatridge College
15.45		
Depart		

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