

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Farm Advisory System (FAS) Requirements

Key Message in Training



Steps for FAS Approval

Impartiality & Consent

Data Protection

Requirements for FAS Approval



Submit your degree transcripts for review - Level 8 in Agriculture Science with soil science and animal/crop production

Fill in and return ALL pages of FAS Application form

Provide current Professional Indemnity Insurance to value of €150,000 per advisor employed, required on annual basis

Complete Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Modules assigned to you in required timeframe

Once complete you will be FAS approved, you must maintain approval by attending FAS updates and CPD

Contact

Impartiality & Consent



As an approved FAS advisor, you have agreed to act impartially, to notify clients of potential conflicts of interest and deliver impartial advice to your clients and ensure that applications on behalf of clients will only be submitted with their full knowledge and consent

What does impartiality mean?

- > Is the presence of objectivity
- Transparency
- Conflict of interests are resolved so the conflict does not influence FAS advisor activity

How can you act impartially?



- Inform your clients if you have any potential conflict e.g. you are in a position to benefit financially if your client purchases the machinery, seed, PPP you recommend
- Act with your client's consent Do not submit applications for schemes without their knowledge and consent
- Do not amend scheme applications, request transfer of entitlements without your client's consent
- Do not submit scheme applications on your own behalf or for a family member (spouse, civil partner, parent, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandchild or favoured nephew/niece)

Data Protection



On acceptance of the 2023 FAS Application form, you agree to the non-disclosure of personal or individual information and data obtained during your advisory activity.

Data Protection has two main perspectives

1. Data Controller - you, the advisor

2. Data Subject – your client

How can you protect data



- Only use your own individual login details for agfood.ie
- Do not share your login details this applies to friends, colleagues and staff within an agency
- Do not login to agfood.ie using your clients login details

When data is not protected



If you share your login details, personal information is put at risk

This could result in a Data Breach

- Unauthorised access to personal data
- Accidental destruction/deletion of data
- Loss of data
- Alteration of data



Why it matters

FAS Approval gives assurance to farmers and the wider farming industry that a FAS advisor will act ethically and seek consent, will act impartially and transparently.

DAFM have a responsibility to ensure this is the case.



Data breaches will be investigated.

You have a responsibility to your client. Client complaints will be investigated.

Findings may result in your removal as a FAS advisor.