

# LANTRA

## LandSkills West Midlands



### LandSkills West Midlands Framework Panel activity summary

Provider	Contact information	Event	Date
ADAS	Odelle.walker@adas.co.uk 01902 754190	<b>Improving Skills in the Pig Industry</b> This would be a 1 year project during which a series of 8 all day meetings will be held in key areas of the West Midlands, covering the main elements of pig health, management and business. Technical aspects covered in the morning and a guest speaker or practical session in the afternoon.	March – November 2011
AHDB Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board	info@bpex.org.uk Helen.brookes@bpex.org.uk 02476 692051	<b>Improving skills in the pig industry – Pig clubs</b> This project will use the framework of the pig industry skills development strategy to build on existing skills in the region's workforce. Practical training workshops and 'pig clubs' will form the main route of delivery of knowledge transfer and skills development activity. Training workshops will cover a wide range of skills, covering the relevant topics as to what is required to run a successful pig business.	October 2010 – March 2012

<p>Campden Technology Food &amp; Drink Innovation</p>	<p>c.knight@campden.co.uk 01386 842000</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting the needs of the Food Supply Chain for Poultry, Meat and Eggs</li> <li>2. Meeting the needs of the Food Supply Chain for Horticultural Produce</li> <li>3. Meeting the needs of the Food Supply Chain for Beef and Sheep.</li> </ol> <p>These events provide a stimulating professional development programme with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase food quality and safety knowledge</li> <li>• To facilitate the understanding of the food supply chains technical requirements and systems and their effective implementation</li> <li>• To develop professional and technical skills</li> <li>• To share experiences and foster networking.</li> </ul>	<p>Nov 2010 – Dec 2011</p>
<p>EBLEX</p>	<p>Michael.richardson@eblex.org.uk 01480 482981</p>	<p><b>Business Club</b> There is an increasing number of On-Farm retailers and other local food suppliers aiming to offer a range of high quality meat products to their customers. EBLEX - AHDB has recently launched a 'Direct Selling' Programme to deliver specific support to farm shop retailers to improve meat quality, profitability and marketing. As well as information to support these businesses EBLEX - AHDB has also started to run a series of practical demonstrations for farmers already selling or considering selling their meat direct to the consumer. These events aim to improve product quality and business profitability.</p>	<p>April 2011 – March 2012</p>
<p>IOTA Institute of Organic Training &amp; Advice</p>	<p>iota@organicadvice.org.uk 01547 528546</p>	<p><b>Grass Clover Management</b> This programme of activities for producers interested in more sustainable farming will provide in-depth training to independent conventional and organic farmers and those belonging to regional producer groups The workshops will be delivered by IOTA accredited advisers wherever possible, using participative techniques to support the delegates in adopting the techniques at home.</p> <p>It will be developed with input and financial support from Graig Producers, the largest organic beef and sheep purchaser in the UK, which will ensure that it is highly relevant to the supply chain needs.</p>	<p>October 2010 – June 2011</p>

<p>IOTA Institute of Organic Training &amp; Advice</p>	<p>iota@organicadvice.org.uk 01547 528546</p>	<p><b>Farming in the Clun Catchment to Improve Water Quality of the River Teme and its Tributaries</b> This proposal will comprise of a series of events for farmers aimed at improving awareness of the local water quality and flooding issues and will engage farmers in developing solutions for themselves to address these issues.</p>	<p>October 2010 – March 2012</p>
<p>IOTA Institute of Organic Training &amp; Advice</p>	<p>iota@organicadvice.org.uk 01547 528546</p>	<p><b>Study Tour of Profitable Farm Diversification</b> This 3 day study tour will visit farmers and growers in Central Germany to see at first hand how producers have addressed the needs of local consumers and improved the profitability of their businesses. It will include 1) an understanding of consumer needs and product quality, 2) production methods to meet consumer needs and 3) experiences of farm processing and direct marketing through various means including farm shops and box schemes and quality and regional branding.</p>	<p>Jan 2011 – Jul 2011</p>
<p>LEAF Linking Environment &amp; Farming</p>	<p>enquiries@leafuk.org 02476 413636</p>	<p><b>Hosting farm visits for schools</b> This project will deliver a tailored programme of training and support to 12 farmers in the region to host farm visits for schools and events relating to food and farming. This will equip farmers with the skills and knowledge to successfully engage with their audience when hosting on-farm visits.  After the training LEAF will help each farmer plan and host one farm visit. Whatever the audience, the visit will encourage the audience to understand and appreciate the connection between food, farming and the countryside.</p>	<p>January – May 2011</p>
<p>LEAF Linking Environment &amp; Farming</p>	<p>enquiries@leafuk.org 02476 413636</p>	<p><b>Sensory rich bespoke farm visits for disabled and disengaged community groups</b> This project will deliver a tailor made programme of training and support for 24 farmers across the West Midlands to host sensory rich and bespoke farm visits for disabled and disengaged community groups. In particular the training will focus on the needs of people with sensory and mobility impairments and people who do not usually get the opportunity to visit the countryside. The training will build on the experience of the Let Nature Feed Your Sense Project.</p>	<p>March – July 2011</p>

<p>LEAF Linking Environment &amp; Farming</p>	<p>enquiries@leafuk.org 02476 413636</p>	<p><b>Keep H2O Use Low</b> This project will deliver a tailored programme of training and support to 36 farmers in the region to achieve the most efficient use of water resources on their farm. The project is in three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop simple online water use monitoring tool for farmers to assess and manage water use.</li> <li>• Provide training to equip farmers in the use of the monitoring tool and assess new technologies available to enhance efficiency of water use on farm.</li> <li>• 3Develop a programme of farmer to farmer technology exchange whereby the trained farmers reach out to a further 180 farmers over 18 months.</li> </ul>	<p>Dec 2010 – Dec 2011</p>
<p>NADIS - National Animal Disease Information Service</p>	<p>01858 555722 / 01858 430154 Keith.hurst@nadis.org.uk</p>	<p><b>Livestock health and welfare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic importance of disease;</li> <li>• Causes of disease</li> <li>• Early clinical signs to watch out for</li> <li>• Welfare impact</li> <li>• Responsible treatment</li> <li>• Disease control and prevention, emphasising the importance of bio security</li> <li>• Material covers all major diseases and husbandry practices including highly rated modules on lambing and beef fertility.</li> </ul>	<p>Nov 2010 – March 2012</p>
<p>NADIS National Animal Disease Information Service</p>	<p>01858 555722 / 01858 430154 Keith.hurst@nadis.org.uk</p>	<p><b>Bovine TB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TB, the disease - part one: the history of the disease, legal framework, compensation and the situation in the devolved administrations;</li> <li>• TB, the disease – part two: restrictions, testing, reactors, introduction into trade (AFU's etc), transmission from cattle to badgers, the future of vaccination both in cattle and badgers;</li> <li>• Badger ecology and bio-security best practice;</li> <li>• General farm bio-security – reducing the risk to your herd;</li> <li>• Trading with herds under restriction</li> <li>• Trading in high risk areas</li> <li>• How to set up an AFU and EQU.</li> </ul>	<p>Dec 2010 – July 2012</p>

<p>NFU The Voice of British Farming</p>	<p>nfu@nfu.org.uk 02476 858500</p>	<p><b>Water protection study tour</b></p> <p>The project will promote the importance of well planned sustainable water use for agriculture. The arable and non food crops sectors are particularly reliant on water for future economic sustainability. Many West Midlands catchments are already under considerable stress, and this will increase as populations rise and daily demand increases. At the same time farmers must secure future production and increase yields in order to maintain food supplies.</p> <p>The project will give 12 West Midlands farmers the chance to visit farms and agricultural businesses in southern Spain. They will identify potential issues that could affect their farm businesses and examine technologies that have been deployed to tackle them including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understanding the relationship between the financial sustainability of the farming business and available water within the catchment</li> <li>• Quantify the water requirement needed to remain competitive.</li> <li>• Assess the performance of irrigation and application technology and examine options available.</li> <li>• maintain a high standard of environmental management.</li> </ul>	<p>Feb 2011 – April 2011</p>
<p>NFU The Voice of British Farming</p>	<p>nfu@nfu.org.uk 02476 858500</p>	<p><b>Improving the supply chain</b></p> <p>The NFU are working alongside Home-Grown Cereals Authority (HGCA) and English Farming and Food Partnerships (EFFP) to bring the following to farmers and growers in the West Midlands;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hedging forward</li> <li>2. Supply chain management</li> <li>3. Contracts management</li> <li>4. Cereal seller checklist</li> <li>5. Grain planning</li> <li>6. Grain storage guidelines</li> <li>7. Mycotoxin risk management</li> </ol> <p>Tools will not only be explained but demonstrated in practical terms how farmers should apply them at farm level and benefits can be derived.</p>	<p>Dec 2010 – May 2011</p>

<p>NFU The Voice of British Farming</p>	<p>nfu@nfu.org.uk 02476 858500</p>	<p><b>Energy and resource efficiency</b> The project is for a study tour to another EU member state to facilitate knowledge transfer of good practice regarding on-farm bio-fuel and bio-energy production.</p> <p>The NFU has identified a number of suitable farm visits within Ireland covering a range of bio-fuel / bio-energy production methodologies and supply chain agreements. Together with contacts made within the Supply Chain Development unit of the Irish Department of Agriculture and the Irish extension service, the study tour will be specific, targeted and practical to ensure greatest impact and influence.</p>	<p>Nov 2010 – Mar 2011</p>
<p>EBLEX – The Organisation for the English Beef &amp; Sheep Industry</p>	<p>07584 036622 emm@betterreturnswm.org.uk</p>	<p><b>Better Returns West Midlands –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable beef and sheep producers in the West Midlands to better understand and meet the demands of the modern day supply chain.</li> <li>• To promote improved health and welfare of beef cattle and sheep</li> <li>• To demonstrate how effective use of best practice, health planning and research developments can reduce costs, improve performance and contribute to a thriving livestock industry in the West Midlands.</li> </ul>	<p>Nov 2010 – March 2012</p>
<p>Smiths Gore – Financial &amp; Business Management</p>	<p>01823 445030 Francesca.hincks@smithsgore.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Financial management and benchmarking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial health check</li> <li>• Succession planning</li> <li>• Benchmarking egg production efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>Nov 2010 – March 2012</p>
<p>Growing Rural Enterprise – Delivering Innovative &amp; Meaningful Learning Opportunities for Rural Business</p>	<p>07767 844921 / 07971 666474 info@growingruralenterprise.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Green technologies discussion group</b> 8 evening events, one every two months including a talk/tour from a host farm/horticultural enterprise/forestry business and light supper followed by discussion and sharing of good practice.</p> <p>This would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainwater harvesting</li> <li>• Woodchip and wood fuel boilers</li> <li>• Composting</li> <li>• Mulching</li> <li>• Sheep wool insulation</li> <li>• Wind power</li> <li>• Solar heating</li> <li>• Air Source and ground source heat pumps.</li> </ul>	<p>Nov 2010 – Mar 2012</p>

<p>Growing Rural Enterprise – Delivering Innovative &amp; Meaningful Learning Opportunities for Rural Business</p>	<p>07767 844921 / 07971 666474 info@growingruralenterprise.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Care farming discussion group</b> 8 evening events, one every two months for the duration of the project and would include a talk/tour from a host care farm and light supper followed by discussion and sharing of good practice This would dovetail in well to the Skills for Care Farming Project which offers training and development workshops.</p>	<p>Nov 2010 – Mar 2012</p>
<p>Growing Rural Enterprise – Delivering Innovative &amp; Meaningful Learning Opportunities for Rural Business</p>	<p>07767 844921 / 07971 666474 info@growingruralenterprise.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Practical training for farmers wishing to sell meat direct to the public</b> A series of one day workshops would be offered to farmers who would like to sell meat direct to the public through farm gate meat sales or other methods of direct selling.</p> <p>One day workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meat retailing for farmers- Legislation and practicalities</li> <li>• Marketing and promoting farm meat- Getting customers</li> <li>• Sausage making, bacon curing, pastrami and pies</li> <li>• Lamb cutting</li> <li>• Pork Cutting</li> <li>• Beef Cutting</li> <li>• Pates, Terrines and Potted Meats</li> </ul> <p>Two Day Workshop on smoking and brining meats.</p>	<p>Nov 2010 – 28 Feb 2012</p>
<p>Growing Rural Enterprise – Delivering Innovative &amp; Meaningful Learning Opportunities for Rural Business</p>	<p>07767 844921 / 07971 666474 info@growingruralenterprise.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Skills for care farming</b> A series of workshops would be offered to farmers who would like to, or are already providing Care Farming activity.</p> <p>The courses will tackle the barriers to success in Care Farming and some of the issues identified by farmers in recent communication and research.</p> <p>This project has been created in partnership with Care Farming West Midlands and their regional advisers.</p> <p>Also included in the opportunity for a group of farmers to do a 5 week PTLLS (Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector) course - a first teaching qualification. This will enable farms who are hosting care farming groups to run short courses funded by Adult and Community Learning and draw down funding to enable this activity. It will also increase confidence and teaching skills.</p>	<p>Nov 2010 – Mar 2012</p>

<p>Poultec Training Promoting Excellence in Training</p>	<p>enquiries@poultec.co.uk 01362 850983</p>	<p><b>Improving Skills in the Poultry Industry</b> This project will provide workshops to poultry produces in the West Midlands covering the topics of bird welfare and farm hygiene and biosecurity. The project aims to encourage farmers / employees of poultry companies from a wide range of sub-sectors such as egg producers, growing farms and hatcheries to attend workshops which will promote best practice and provide relevant information and guidance on how producers can meet assurance schemes and customer requirements.</p>	<p>March 2011 – March 2012</p>
<p>Royal Veterinary College</p>	<p>draldridge@onlineveterinaryacademy.org 01707 666385</p>	<p><b>Farmers Training Almanac in Beef &amp; Sheep Health Production</b> This training programme content will equip farmers in optimizing product quality, animal health and welfare and enterprise profitability and will be offered under 4 subject headings, Production (animal breeding, husbandry, obstetrics (lambing/calving), feed and feeding, pastures, buildings, meat science, Performance (reproductive care (ram/ewe, bull/ heifer), practical genetics, animal nutrition, pasture management, and meat production), Prevention (animal health (infectious disease, biosecurity, vaccines, medicines) and welfare (evaluation, pain, legislation), meat quality) and Profitability (business and financial management, entrepreneurial skills, maximising fertility and growth, minimising disease/production losses).</p>	<p>May 2011 – March 2012</p>
<p>The Potato Council Supporting the British Potato Industry</p>	<p>p.bradshaw@potato.org.uk</p>	<p><b>Green manures study tour to Belgium and the Netherlands</b> The Potato Council has put together a project with a group of West Midlands potato growers based on Grower Collaboration. A core group of growers would complete a study tour of the Netherlands &amp; Belgium to observe their practice. The tour would include farm visits to see crop planting plus a visit to FIWAP Belgium for presentations on nutrition strategies across Belgium arable farming.</p>	<p>Nov 2010 – March 2012</p>
<p>Smiths Gore – Financial &amp; Business Management</p>	<p>01823 445030 Francesca.hincks@smithsgore.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Business development groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of 4 events to 3 independent Arable Business Groups, supported by HGCA. Delegates will be provided with knowledge and understanding on how to develop their own costs of production for their arable enterprises.</li> <li>• Delivery of a programme called "Exceptional Manager" to defined groupings linked to established Smiths Gore clients. Structured as a series of facilitated development sessions (5 per annum per group identity) to a consistent delegate cohort the programme will cover a range of topics relevant to core agricultural and diversified business leaders and managers.</li> </ul>	<p>Oct 2010 – March 2012</p>

Staffordshire Rural Hub	info@staffordshireruralhub.org 01785 255305	<p><b>Engaging with IT economy on the farm</b></p> <p>The proposed programme aims to ensure that the owner and decision makers in the farm business take on board IT enabled systems and to ensure that participants develop necessary business skills and adopted systems thus maximising the use of IT. The programme includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial recording</li> <li>• Production and regulatory recording</li> <li>• Ensuring that IT and the knowledge of software is transferred to farm partners and staff. The enabling mechanism will be multi faceted to reach all ages, gender and abilities through skills checks, a tailored approach and group engagement.</li> <li>• Introduction to new technologies/systems.</li> </ul>	Nov 2010 – Dec 2011
Shropshire Rural Hub	shropsruralhub@wnsc.ac.uk 01939 262106	<p><b>Fresh Start</b></p> <p>Fresh Start will help new entrants and existing farmers to develop their businesses or to manage exit or succession.</p> <p>The programme of courses will promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An entrepreneurial culture amongst next generation</li> <li>• Informed decision making</li> <li>• Smooth succession</li> <li>• Generic business planning and management techniques</li> <li>• Land based as an attractive career option for new entrants</li> <li>• Opportunity to keep up to date with developments in industry legislation, regulation, innovation.</li> </ul>	Nov 2010 – Dec 2011
Walford and North Shropshire College	l.donald@wnsc.ac.uk enquiries@wnsc.ac.uk 01939 262100	<p><b>Animal health and welfare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable the beef and sheep producers of the West Midlands to better understand, and meet, the demands of the modern day supply chain cost effectively</li> <li>• To promote improved health and welfare of beef cattle and sheep in the region</li> <li>• To demonstrate how effective use of best practice, health planning and research developments can reduce costs, improve performance and contribute to a thriving livestock industry in the West Midlands</li> <li>• To demonstrate the importance of record keeping</li> <li>• Reduce the skills deficit within the sheep industry and enhance sheep production jobs in the West Midlands by improving skills in sheering, dipping and lambing.</li> </ul>	Oct 2010 – March 2012

Walford and North Shropshire College	l.donald@wnsc.ac.uk enquiries@wnsc.ac.uk 01939 262100	<p><b>Increasing Skills in the Forestry Industry</b> Walford &amp; North Shropshire College will deliver forestry skills training to foresters, forestry contractors, farmers and gamekeepers with woodland management duties across the West Midlands. The training is already established in the current successful Woodworks West Midlands contract, which consists of a range of technical and vocational qualifications.</p>	Oct 2010 – March 2012
Westpoint Veterinary Surgeons	enquiry@westpointfarmvets.co.uk 01335 361420	<p><b>Skills for Modern Beef / Sheep Farmers</b> This project will be a comprehensive program of training events, farm visits and meetings under the banner of “Skills for Modern Sheep / Beef Farmers” aiming to provide beneficiaries with the skills required to compete in their industry today. The course will be composed of 6 separate, half-day, training events geared towards different aspects of the industry. The series would run over the winter/spring of 2010/11 in Staffordshire using local contacts, farming press and market catalogues to advertise events. The program will be promoted as a complete guide to profitable sheep / beef farming with beneficiaries encouraged to register for the whole course. Individual meetings will also be promoted separately.</p>	March – June 2011
Wyvern Training Services Providing Quality Training for Landbased and Rural Businesses.	enquiries@wyverntrainingservices.com 01432 880690	<p>Supporting the top, orchard and cider fruit sectors with the West Midlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing best practice in orchard management</li> <li>• Adopting and managing new techniques and practices</li> <li>• Updating and developing practical orcharding skills and techniques for existing and new members of the workforce.</li> <li>• Ensuring key skills, knowledge and experience are retained within the sector.</li> <li>• Developing the softer ‘management’ skills and abilities of team leaders, supervisors and management working with a diverse seasonal workforce.</li> </ul>	Nov 2010 – 31 Aug 2011

<p>XL Vets Growing Farm Business Success</p>	<p>farmskills@xlvets.co.uk 01765 645893</p>	<p><b>FarmSkills</b> The FarmSkills workshops will build on the pilot run in the West Midlands from October 2009 to present day and will continue to reflect the Rural Development Agencies aim of increasing the competitiveness and sustainability of the agricultural livestock industry through developing skills and learning. Workshops are farmer demand led and focus on improving the health and welfare of beef cattle and sheep to improve business performance and reduce costs. For this new Programme, FarmSkills will also work in conjunction with MVP Training to deliver health and welfare to poultry farmers.</p>	<p>Oct 2010 – March 2012</p>
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[LandSkillsWM@lantra.co.uk](mailto:LandSkillsWM@lantra.co.uk)