

Wales

As the Sector Skills Council for environmental and land-based industries, Lantra is passionate about skills.

Lantra in Wales supports our industries in developing a highly skilled workforce capable of competing in today's local and global economy. Leading the drive to boost skills and workforce development, Lantra aims to improve productivity, business performance and reduce skills gaps by continuously enhancing the quality and availability of training.

What Lantra has done for businesses and individuals:

- Arranging 50% funding support for over 10,000 agriculture and production horticulture-related training places and assessments through Farming Connect over the past six years.
- Signposting 6,000 individuals to the 'Managing Farms with IT' project, which helped farmers improve business performance, develop new ideas and find off-farm employment to support their income. Lantra skills checks were key to identifying IT and other business management needs.
- Lantra oversaw a 12-month training project for the Countryside Council for Wales, which successfully delivered 361 training days in practical countryside skills. The variety of 1-5 day courses ranged from dry-stone walling, brush cutters/trimmers, basic tree surveying to pesticide usage.
- Establishing a Fencing Assessment Centre in Wales. The pilot project developed with the Welsh Assembly Government, updated the skills competencies of 150 Welsh fencing individuals to become FISS/CSCS joint card accredited.
- Lantra set up a dedicated call centre in response to a high volume of calls regarding the new Welfare of Animals in Transit (WAIT) legislation. This requires a certificate of competence for people to transport animals over 65 km (approx 40 miles) for economic activity.
- Delivering 55 environmental best practice events. These included the highly successful 'Scab and Lice Control' on-farm events run on behalf of Environment Agency Wales and other partners. The events delivered advice on effective sheep ectoparasite control, health and safety tips and environmental advice to safeguard waterways.
- Creation of a Learning Zone within Lantra's building at the Royal Welsh Show, which brought training providers together to promote the sector and attract trainees.
- Development and promotion of careers information to encourage more new entrants.
- The 'Land-based Learner of the Year Awards' in Wales, showcasing the benefits of training and learning, was attended by Elin Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs.
- The high standards demanded by the UK's farriery apprenticeship continue to equip new entrants to the profession with the skills needed by industry. Wales' Ricky Hilton won two gold medals at EuroSkills 2008.
- Research to increase understanding of the size of the workforce and the business needs of those employing migrant workers, within the land-based sector of Wales and the UK, continues to benefit Welsh employers.
- On-going work relating to the review and revision of modern apprenticeship frameworks and development of Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) units.
- Working with further education providers and awarding bodies, to develop qualifications relevant to the environmental and land-based sector in Wales.



Kevin Thomas, Lantra's National Director Wales

Haydn Nelms, Proline Fencing and Landscapes (estd 1993) says:

"I'm always happy to find time for training as it's an investment in the business. It gives people pride in themselves and their work, maintains enthusiasm and encourages loyalty. I promote my team as 100% qualified, as while customers may not pay extra, they are more likely to come to us."

Contact Lantra Wales
Lantra, Royal Welsh Showground
Llanelwedd, Builth Wells
Powys LD2 3WY

Tel: 01982 552646
Fax: 01982 552523
Email: wales@lantra.co.uk



Elin Jones Minister for Rural Affairs with Land-based Learner Finalists

NVQ Assessor Haydn Nelms



Farm best practice event

The year ahead...

- Lantra will support 24 environmental organisations and 120 individuals to benefit from a new Skills Manager product developed by Lantra. The tool will recognise and record existing skills, helping to identify skills gaps and any training needed.
- Funding secured from the Countryside Council for Wales will allow a further 250 individuals to acquire practical environmental skills training, which will enhance the environment and their employment prospects.
- Lantra intends to support Farming Connect's delivery of training support to agriculture and forestry businesses through the Rural Development Plan for Wales.
- Lantra will support learning in the non-agricultural businesses within Lantra's footprint, i.e. horticulture, landscaping and sports turf, equine, farriery, floristry, environmental conservation, game and wildlife, land-based engineering and animal care.
- Lantra will continue to work with training providers to ensure that training provision matches the needs of employers.
- Recognising the valuable contribution made by our Skills Ambassadors, Lantra will continue to grow the network across Wales so these industry champions continue to assist the work of Lantra, endorsing and communicating messages about skills to a widespread audience.
- Lantra will work with the industry to further develop and promote sector specific products like Skills Manager, National Student Database, CourseFinder and Job Shop.
- Lantra will work with the Welsh Assembly Government and the industry to develop Strategic Policy, with the key areas of red meat, organic, horticulture, dairy and aquaculture and fisheries management, and to develop a Young Entrant Scheme for Wales.
- Working with the Welsh Baccalaureate, Lantra will influence the principal learning content to ensure suitability to the sector's needs.
- Lantra will carry out research to update our knowledge of the sector's skills needs and assess current training provision so that we can influence and shape training available to meet industry needs.
- Lantra will continue to develop and deliver high quality Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) for career advisors to aid with their professional development.
- Lantra is developing an interactive careers website aimed at young people aged between 14 and 19, adults and career advisors. The website will promote the variety of job opportunities in the sector, providing in-depth information about the industries, qualifications and different career paths available.

Making the difference...

Major industries in Wales

Agriculture livestock
Agriculture crops
Production horticulture
Horticulture, landscaping and sports turf
Environmental conservation
Equine

Facts and figures

There are approximately 18,600 environmental and land-based businesses in Wales*

The sector is dominated by micro-businesses. Nearly all businesses in the sector have a workforce of less than ten staff, with 94% of businesses having four staff or less (Office of National Statistics Inter-Departmental Business Register)

Self-employment features highly in the sector in Wales, compared to both the UK overall and against all industries in Wales. Some 63% of the Welsh sector workforce is self-employed compared to just 13% across all industries (Labour Force Survey 2008)

Total employment (approximately 85,000) in the sector is expected to decline, with the majority at intermediate level and the fewest losses at higher skilled levels. It is estimated that around 3,000 new sector entrants will be needed to fill vacancies*

Overall, 6% of establishments in the environmental and land-based industries reported they had vacancies compared to 21% of establishments for Wales overall (Future Skills Wales 2005)

*Source Lantra Skills Assessment 2009



Learning Zone at the Royal Welsh Show was opened by Welsh Minister Jane Hutt



Some of Wales' Skills Ambassadors

Skills Manager developing skills

Skills Manager – a unique online tool that allows employers, employees and volunteers to assess their own skills and record practical experiences, achievements and qualifications. Skills Manager facilitates the identification of skills gaps, allowing training and development planning and documenting.

National Student Database – bridging the gap between further education and the world of work. The National Student Database enables new entrants to record all aspects of their education and work experience in a form that can be used by employers selecting new entrants for job vacancies.

Job Shop – allows employers to compare their job vacancies needs against the recorded skills profiles of college students.

Careers Manager – provides online information on careers and learning.

EnterpriseEssentials – supports small business owner-managers to set up and grow businesses by identifying skills gaps and solutions.

ManagementEssentials – similar to EnterpriseEssentials, but designed for human resource managers working for larger organisations.

www.lantra.co.uk

Telephone: 01738 553311