



Grants available for small horticultural business in Wales

Media release

Date: 19th November 2020 – For immediate release

With more and more people interested in and participating in food production, and with growing at home at an all-time high due to COVID-19, now is a great time for small horticultural businesses to expand their ventures.

To help grow smaller edible horticultural businesses operating in Wales, [Food Sense Wales](#) along with partners [Social Farms & Gardens](#), are awarding up to six grants of between £2500 to £5000 to small businesses with no more than 5-Hectares of production land. The grant application process is now open and the closing date for applications is midday, Monday 30th November 2020.

This is a fantastic opportunity for small horticultural businesses to access small capital grants as part of [Peas Please](#), a UK National Lottery funded programme whose main aim is to drive up veg consumption. This grant is being delivered in Wales by Food Sense Wales in partnership with Social Farms & Gardens.

This funding is available to research and pilot the difference that small capital investments can make to small scale horticulture businesses. Grants of between £2500 to £5000 will be offered to a small number of applicants in Wales. Preference will be given to those operating in low-income areas.

“For many years horticulture, particularly small scale production, has been under resourced as producers working land of under 5 Hectares have not been eligible for subsidy. However, there is evidence to suggest that they could significantly expand sales and reach if investment in infrastructure was available,” says Katie Palmer, Programme Manager at Food Sense Wales, an organisation that’s working to influence how food is produced and consumed in Wales, ensuring that sustainable food and farming is at the heart of a just, connected and prosperous food system.

“This is a really exciting scheme that will explore the impact that small capital investments can have on these smaller scale horticulture businesses and we’re looking forward to working with companies across Wales to measure the success of the scheme.”

Wales Manager, Gary Mitchell from Social Farms and Gardens adds: “We know that being outdoors provides huge benefits to physical and mental health & wellbeing and that promoting healthy lifestyles is at the top of the agenda in the longer-term fight against COVID-19. With loneliness and mental ill health on the increase, the importance of safe, outdoors community spaces is more important than ever. In addition to this, local, community growing is absolutely key in tackling some key issues surrounding climate change, and biodiversity and will be at the top of the agenda for many people in our communities.”

Successful grant recipients will be required to meet with a researcher, before and after the investment to evaluate what impact the grant investment can make in terms of production, sales and sustainability of the organisation.

This pilot has been designed with key stakeholders and the overall impact of the pilot will be evaluated and a case study report written highlighting areas of good practice, the findings of which will be shared with Welsh Government.

For further information about the Small Edible Horticulture Business Grants, please click [here](#) or contact 02920 225942 / wales@farmgarden.org.uk

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Notes for Editor

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About Social Farms & Gardens:

‘Social Farms & Gardens – Growing well together’

Social Farms & Gardens is a UK wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together.

SF&G:

- Advocate and campaign for greater recognition, funding and opportunities for nature-based activities.
- Provide expert advice, support and a free membership scheme to support communities to grow in sustainable ways.
- Design and deliver innovative training programmes which empower and enable communities to thrive and grow.
- Forge pathways for our members to access commissioned services and demonstrate that they deliver high quality provision.

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

President: Lord Curry of Kirkharle CBE

www.farmgarden.org.uk

Head Office: The GreenHouse, Hereford Street, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 4NA

Company No: 2011023 & Charity (England & Wales) No: 294494, Charity (Scotland) No: SC039440

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About Food Sense Wales

Food Sense Wales is working to create a food and farming system that is good for people and good for the planet. We want to influence how food is produced and consumed in Wales, to ensure sustainable food and farming is at the heart of a just, connected and prosperous food system.

To achieve this we believe that the environment; health and wellbeing; social justice, and the economy should be integrated in all policy thinking in Wales. We believe that this “food in all policies” approach can be achieved through research, cross sector collaboration and mobilising citizens and stakeholders as part of a “Wales Good Food Movement”.

Food Sense Wales is a fund within the Cardiff and Vale Health Charity and hosted by the Cardiff and Vale Public Health team. Food Sense Wales takes a systems approach to food and farming in combination with strong working relationships with public, private and civil society organisations operating in and cutting across the food space in Wales and the UK.

Food Sense Wales delivers a number of programmes across Wales – many as part of UK partnerships – including [Peas Please](#), [Food For Life Get Togethers](#) and [Sustainable Food Places](#).

Peas Please

Peas Please is a UK-wide initiative that’s all about getting people to eat more veg which Food Sense Wales leads in Wales.

Peas Please is a ground-breaking initiative focused specifically on veg. With our vegetable consumption levels declining, Peas Please aims to bring together farmers, retailers, and restaurant chains, caterers, processors and government departments with a common goal of making it easier for everyone to eat veg.

It’s not just our health that will benefit but the environment and farmers can potentially benefit from more veg too. The report also showed that if we all eat an extra portion of veg and a little less meat we would reduce the UK’s diet-related greenhouse gas emissions by 17%.

Peas Please aims to secure commitments from industry and government to improve the availability, acceptability (including convenience), affordability, and quality of the vegetable offer in shops,

schools, restaurants and beyond, and in turn stimulate increased vegetable consumption among the UK public, particularly children and those on a low income.