



William Powell AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
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22 December 2015

Dear William,

During Plenary on 9 December, I promised I would write to you with information about the opportunities that are available under the Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) for the farming industry in Wales.

The SPG is an important element of the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme for Wales 2014-2020. It is designed to help farmers in Wales to improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holdings. The scheme supports projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to improve the overall performance and sustainability of the agricultural holding.

To enable farmers to combat the effects of climate change, the scheme is able to support on-farm, small scale energy generation. However, due to state aid regulations, the bioenergy produced must not exceed the annual on-farm consumption to receive support.

The grant provides investment in facilities and equipment that relate to the following five themes of renewable energy production, animal and plant health and welfare, crop storage, production housing and handling and soil and crop management.

Examples of items that might be eligible in an investment proposal, within each theme, are:

#### **Renewable energy production**

- Small scale wind turbines
- Hydro-electric turbines
- Solar panels
- Automated woodfuel boilers
- Heat pumps
- Solar water heating

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- Anaerobic digestion equipment
- Specialist biomass equipment

### **Animal health and welfare**

- EID Readers – both handheld and integrated
- Livestock weighing scales
- Specialist computer software for livestock management

### **Crop storage**

- Grain driers
- Bulk feed bins
- Silage clamps
- Horticultural produce storage
- Potato storage

### **Production housing and handling**

- Livestock handling systems
- Livestock housing
- Crop production infrastructure
- Specialist horticultural handling equipment
- Slurry / manure stores
- Rainwater separation
- Dairy production infrastructure

### **Soil and crop management**

- Equipment and machinery for precision application of nutrients
- Water efficient irrigation systems
- Equipment and machinery for rejuvenating pastureland
- Equipment and machinery for organic methods of crop management

I hope that this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely



### **Rebecca Evans AC / AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd  
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food