

Farm Advisory System in Finland

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Organization

- **Coordinating authority: Agency for Rural Affairs**
- **Certification and control of operating bodies: Agency for Rural Affairs**
- **Operating bodies (regional): Pro Agria advisors and private accredited advisors**

Requirements for advisors

- **Basic education and work experience**
- **Training recommended**
- **Passing examination**
- **Included in prepayment register for taxation**
- **Insurance recommended**
- **Action plan for advice**

Information for farmers

- **Application guide on agricultural support system consists information on FAS (yearly)**
- **Brochure on FAS (distributed in the rural exhibitions)**
- **Websites (both Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Agency for Rural affairs)**
- **Electronic newsletters for stakeholders consist also information on FAS**
- **Advisory organizations and private advisers inform farmers on FAS in their brochure**
- **Municipal officials inform farmers on FAS**

Type of service provided

- Farmer choose between 7 sections of one-to-one advice at the farm
- Agreement between adviser and farmer
- One-to-one visit at the farm
- Check list with proposals of improvements
- Paid by farmers
- National support to the farmer after advice
 - max 150 € / section of advice
 - max 300 € / farm / year

Sections of Advice

- **Good agricultural and environmental condition**
- **Environmental legislation (incl. protection of birds, groundwater, waters, habitats and wild flora and fauna)**
- **Identification and registration of animals**
- **Plant protective products**
- **Foodstuffs**
- **Feeding stuffs**
- **Animal welfare and notification of animal diseases**

Farmers served and funding

- **Under 1,5 % of all farms yearly (2007 and 2008) (700-800 farms)**
- **Regional variation in activity of farmers**
- **Farmers have not yet realized the possibilities of FAS**
- **Only national funding (1 million € per year, 2007 and 2008 of which ~ 120 000 € used per year)**