



Access To Farms

Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme

Are you a farmer offering educational visits to groups of children on your farm? Or are you considering making your farm available to schools in the future?

Access To Farms (ATF) has established a scheme to help you develop your skills and to ensure that schools are guaranteed a safe and valuable farm experience.

CEVAS accreditation has two elements:

- training for farmers or those working with children during educational visits
- a farm assessment

Training. You will get a qualification from the Open College Network and an ATF Certificate of Achievement to demonstrate your skills and help market your services. The three day course offers an opportunity for farmers to share experiences and develop knowledge and skills.

Assessment. You will get an annual registration certificate from the independent assessors CMS UK, and an ATF certificate recognising the suitability of your premises to help market your services. A self-assessment pack has been developed to ensure that you can gather the necessary evidence prior to a visit by CMS UK. The scheme avoids duplication of other assessments that you already have; instead it looks at those elements relating to educational visits and asks for evidence of other health and safety issues covered by other schemes.

Supported by:

department for
education and skills
creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence



Training

The Units are:

- Preparing for Farm Visits
- Food, Farming & the Countryside in the National Curriculum
- Talking to Pupils, Students and Teachers

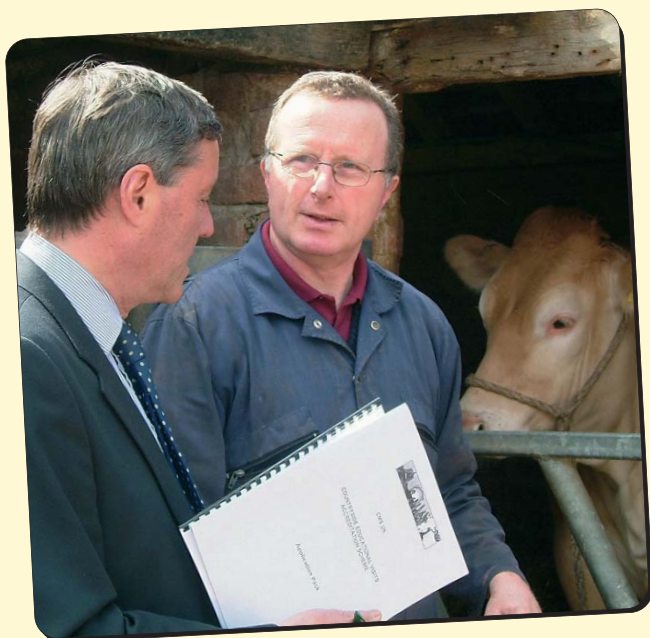
The courses are FREE (until summer 2006) to farmers, apart from a registration fee with the Open College Network of £25 + VAT

Details of training courses and booking forms are available from:
www.farmgarden.org.uk/atf

or from: **ATF, c/o 61 Marston Lane, Frome, Somerset BA11 4DR**

Telephone **01373 302 204**.

This training is being made possible through support under the England Rural Development Programme by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and the Ernest Cook Trust.



Assessment

The assessment part of CEVAS will be undertaken after you or your staff have completed CEVAS training or following evidence that a CEVAS Trained person is working with you to develop your educational opportunities.

An application pack is available from the independent assessors CMS UK, who will deal with all assessment queries. ATF has developed CEVAS but has no involvement in the assessment process. CMS UK will, on receipt of your application, arrange a suitable date for the assessment, which should take approximately two hours to complete. You will be issued with a report on the day.

There follows a two year cycle: after one year insurance and other annual evidence will be required prior to issuing another certificate, followed by a further site assessment after two years. There will be an initial charge of £170 (+ VAT) and an annual fee thereafter of £110 (+ VAT).



CMS UK

Promoting Quality and Welfare in British Food and Farming

For further details contact:

CMS UK, The Old Dairy, Spring Farm Business Centre, Moss Lane, Minshull Vernon, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 4RJ.

Telephone: **01270 522645**

Fax: **01270 522119**

Email: **linda@cmsuk-food.co.uk**

Website: **www.cmsuk-food.co.uk**

ATF will publicise the scheme to schools and maintain a list of accredited farms.

Further information about Access To Farms and CEVAS is available from the Growing Schools website: **www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools/support/detail.cfm?id=39**

Alternatively, contact the ATF secretary:

Telephone **01422 882708**

Email **ellen-brookes@farmsforschools.org.uk**

Access To Farms is a partnership aiming to improve the opportunities and quality of educational access to farms by schools. The partners are: Country Land & Business Association (CLA), Countryside Agency (CA), Countryside Foundation for Education (CFE), Department for Education and Skills (DfES), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Farming And Countryside Education (FACE), Farms for Schools (FFS), Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG), Groundwork UK (GW), Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF), National Farmers Union (NFU), National Farm Attractions Network (NFAN), The Country Trust (CT), The National Trust (NT), The Soil Association (SA).