



Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)

INVITATION TO TENDER for Quality Assuring the Animal Health Advice provided via the HerdAdvance project

Issued 24 June 2019



About AHDB

The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) is a statutory levy board, funded by farmers, growers and others in the supply chain and managed as an independent organisation (independent of both commercial industry and of Government). Our purpose is to inspire our farmers, growers and industry to succeed in a rapidly changing world. Our vision is for a world-class food and farming industry inspired by, and competing with the best. More information can be found at www.ahdb.org.uk

About the Wales Dairy Improvement Programme (DIP)

In June 2018, AHDB was successful in applying for grant funding to undertake a five-year Dairy Improvement Programme (DIP) which will trial the implementation of new engagement strategies to increase the profitability and resilience of the Welsh dairy sector. The DIP is made possible through the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Union.

The DIP is delivered via two strategic projects:

- HerdAdvance
- Strategic Dairy Farms

This Specification relates to the HerdAdvance element of the programme.

HerdAdvance

The project aim is to pilot how improving disease control awareness and pre-emptive animal health and welfare management on Welsh dairy farms can improve on-farm efficiencies and profitability and ensure that businesses realise their full potential in the market place. A new whole farm holistic approach to disease prevention will be applied taking into consideration other influential factors such as nutrition, genetics and the suitability of buildings.

The project will promote Animal Health Planning as an integral on-farm management tool aimed at promoting the health and welfare of farm animals by setting out disease prevention, detection and management procedures. The aim is to recruit up to 500 farmers to participate in the Herd Health Planning and Monitoring element.

Data will play a key part in this project in terms of:

- Providing baseline figures for the farm (which will also be used for action planning decisions)
- monitoring improvements
- cost benefit analysis

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The project includes a Herd Health Planning Visit. Participating farms will receive a 2 hour funded meeting between the farmer, their vet and a dedicated Animal Health KEM.

During this visit the vet will:

1. Review the physical animal health data supplied by the farmer during the first visit. (Vet should have reviewed this data before the visit).
2. Review the current Animal Health Plan and ensure that it is up-to-date and fit for purpose (as a minimum ensure it complies with the requirements of Red Tractor; or higher if the farm is currently having to comply with a higher standard e.g. ARLA Garden).
3. Identify three dairy specific health priority areas and place in order of importance. The selection and prioritisation is done to deliver maximal impact on the health and welfare of the herd.
4. Discuss these priorities with the farmer and the KEM along with recommendations on how improvements could be achieved. Agree on an approach to take the recommendations forward and complete the 'Priorities and Recommendations Form' accordingly.
5. Sign the Priorities and Recommendations Form.
6. Discuss and agree with the farmer and KEM the actions needed to progress the identified priority areas as well as any appropriate support needed.
7. Further to this meeting, the KEM and farmer will further develop the Herd Health Action Plan based on the agreed priorities.

Services Required

AHDB requires a supplier who can review a maximum of 10% of the Animal Health Plans reviewed, the HerdAdvance Priorities and Recommendations Forms and the HerdAdvance Action Plans for Quality Assurance purposes. The supplier will need to check that the Animal Health Plans being assessed are fit for purpose i.e. as a minimum it complies with the requirements of Red Tractor and FAWL. The supplier will also need to assess the HerdAdvance Priorities and Recommendations Forms and HerdAdvance Action Plans ensuring that the priorities identified are in line with the Animal Health Plan and that the recommendations and advice given is satisfactory. All three documents combined should (as a minimum) include:

- a) A biosecurity policy, disease risk and prevention
- b) A review of procedures undertaken as a routine
- c) An analysis of on farm data
- d) An analysis of the current diseases/problems on farm, especially those that occur regularly
- e) A set of priorities, recommendations and action plan with a maximum of 3 priority area per farm and with a timeline for review of action/achievement.

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The successful supplier will need to provide feedback on each case via a written report highlighting any areas of particular strengths and outlining any issues that need to be addressed.

Submission Requirements

The submission should include/demonstrate:

- Details of the proposed Quality Assurance process / methodology
- Delivery team knowledge including experience and expertise in Animal Health and Animal Health Planning in particular
- Details of your ability to deliver the service from 1 August 2019 to 31 March 2023
- Milestones for the different element of the project i.e. timescales from the time you receive the documents to be reviewed and the production and delivery of a Quality Assurance report.
- A breakdown of costs including an unit cost for reviewing the documents per farm business.

Evaluation Criteria

Your submission will be scored against the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
1. Evidence of understanding the brief / tender and proposed methodology for delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details of the proposed Quality Assurance process• The approach and methodology for undertaking the work	25%
2. Experience, knowledge and expertise of the delivery team that will be assigned to this contract: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience and expertise in Animal Health and Animal Health Planning in particular• Examples of comparable work undertaken• Relevant skills, experience and background of key staff involved.	40%
3. Ability of contractor to deliver on time and on budget – to include milestones i.e. timescales from the time you receive the documents to be reviewed and the production and delivery of a Quality Assurance report.	10%

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4. Cost	25%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The breakdown should be based on methodology and services required. Please provide a comprehensive breakdown of costs for transparency including an unit cost for reviewing the documents per farm business. (Please note that any costs not included in your submission will not be taken into consideration after award of the contract.)	

Questions

If you have a specific question related to this specification please email **menna.davies@ahdb.org.uk**. As part of the open competition process AHDB cannot discuss specific project details with you before submitting your proposal. All responses to questions received as part of the process will be recorded, anonymised and shared with all other applicants.

Timetable

Any questions regarding this tender must be submitted by 5pm on 5 July 2019.

Tenders must be submitted electronically by no later than 5pm on 15 July 2019.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals must be submitted electronically to Menna Davies, Dairy Development Wales Manager: **menna.davies@ahdb.org.uk**

Please title your submission: 'HerdAdvance - Quality Assurance'

Conditions of contract

Please note that AHDB Standard Terms and Conditions will apply to the contract, a copy of which can be found on the AHDB website:

<http://www.ahdb.org.uk/about/Procurement.aspx>

Tenderers are advised to familiarise themselves with these Terms and Conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

The successful supplier will be required to sign a contract with AHDB before commencement of services.

Right to Withdraw

AHDB reserves the right:

- to withdraw from and/or to abandon and/or to defer the tender process at any time (including if there are no acceptable responses to this invitation);
- not to award any contract as a result of the tender process;
- to supplement, revise and/or clarify the terms of this invitation; and
- to require a bidder to clarify its response to this invitation and/or to provide additional information in relation thereto.

Bidder Costs

AHDB is not liable for and will not under any circumstances contribute towards the following, which are matters for each bidder's commercial judgment and are at each bidder's own risk:

- any costs or expenses incurred by a bidder in connection with the preparation for or delivery of a tender response to this invitation; or
- any costs or expenses incurred by a bidder in connection with its participation in this tender process; or
- any costs or expenses incurred or work or effort undertaken by the bidder in connection with or in preparation for any services prior to AHDB issuing an order form.