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## **Leading the way as farmers come together for new East Midlands training programme**

Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for environmental and land-based industries, together with XL Vets announced today (2 October) that farmers from across the region will be able to take advantage of a new set of activities designed to improve farm business performance and livestock health, as they marked the end of the first ever LandSkills Week (28 September – 2 October).

LandSkills Week saw the start of a £4 million winter training programme available to farmers, growers and foresters in six regions across England. LandSkills East Midlands has already allocated over £200,000 to its winter training activities, including XL Vets programme, FarmSkills, which brings farmers, vets and industry experts together.

LandSkills East Midlands Programme Manager, Richard Loynes, said: “We are pleased to use LandSkills Week as a platform to inform cattle, sheep, pig and poultry farmers that FarmSkills is up and running and ready for farmers to access up to 70% to develop their skills and businesses.”

There are four XL Vet practices in the East Midlands who will be running FarmSkills courses for farmers in subjects from foot trimming in cattle to bull fertility and soundness testing. Vet Rose Jackson, from the Scarsdale Veterinary Group near Derby added: “We’re really enthusiastic about the new courses we’re able to bring to farmers across the region. Working together with our farmers, we can help improve our region’s livestock health and have a positive impact on farm business profits.”

Loynes continued: “FarmSkills is just one part of a wider range of activities that are being supported by the LandSkills programme and given the current economic climate their launch could not be bettered timed.”

For more information about LandSkills East Midlands contact the LandSkills team, on 0845 2788800 or visit [www.lantra.co.uk/LandSkillsEastMidlands](http://www.lantra.co.uk/LandSkillsEastMidlands).

**ENDS**

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**Photograph caption (*high res images available on request*):** L-R Vet Rose Jackson from Scarsdale, Landskills East Midlands Programme Manager and local farmer Mr Wedd of Piltons Farm Nr Derby.



### **Editor's notes**

- The Rural Development Programme is jointly funded by the EU, through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the Government. In England, we will also make use of Voluntary Modulation. The RDPE 2007-2013 has a budget of £3.9 billion. This is more than double the budget available for the previous programme which ran from 2000-2006. £3.3 billion of the total budget will be allocated to agri-environment and other land management schemes. This funding will help farmers to manage the land more sustainably and deliver important outcomes on biodiversity, landscape and access, water quality and climate change. Some £600 million will be made available to make

agriculture and forestry more competitive and sustainable and to enhance opportunity in rural areas.

- LandSkills East Midlands, managed by Lantra Sector Skills Council on behalf of Regional Development Agency EMDA, is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) which is funded by Defra and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.
- XL Vets are a group of 42 independently owned veterinary practices around the country, sharing training skills, specialist knowledge and buying power. The group is committed to the future of the UK livestock industry.
- Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based industries, is licensed by the UK government to drive forward the new skills, training and business development agenda for the sector.
- Lantra represents 17 industries and 1.5 million workers and volunteers in agricultural crops, agricultural livestock, animal care, animal technology, aquaculture, environmental conservation, equine, farriery, fencing, fisheries management, floristry, game and wildlife management, land-based engineering, landscaping, production horticulture, trees and timber and veterinary nursing. For more information see [www.lantra.co.uk](http://www.lantra.co.uk).

