

RuSource

the rural information network

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Briefing 511

Farming Help

Confidential help for all in the farming community

Summary

The Farming Help Partnership brings together the three national charities working in the farming community. Each partner charity provides different but complementary forms of help and support to meet a wide range of needs. www.farminghelp.org.uk Helpline: 07002 326 326

This briefing is taken from a new leaflet from the Farming Help charities. The charities would appreciate it if you have opportunities to distribute it to farmers or people in contact with them. Supplies can be obtained from the ARC-Addington Fund on 024 7669 0587.

What are the problems?

There are many factors which may cause need or distress to farming people and families: ill health, debt, farm business problems, bereavement, depression, family relationships, farm regulations, retirement, farm tenancy issues.... These are often exacerbated by the financial pressures, long working hours and increasing isolation experienced by many in farming. Farm situations are often complex, with home, livelihood, business and family entwined together.

How we can help

The Farming Help Partnership charities have a wealth and breadth of experience in working with farming people. The wide range of help and support that may be available includes: pastoral care and support, housing provision, domestic financial help, access to debt advice, provision for the disabled and elderly, access to professional farm business advice, help with state benefit claims, advocacy in technical farm problems e.g. with government agencies. Relevant and appropriate support can be given in any farm-related situation, whatever the issues are.

Do you know someone who needs help?

Do you know a family member, friend or colleague who is going through a difficult time? Do you meet farming people in your professional capacity who may need someone to turn to? You can encourage them to contact one of the Farming Help charities in total confidence. If they would prefer, you can get in touch on their behalf. You can make a difference by enabling them to seek help.

Do you need help?

If you are going through a difficult time and would value confidential help, support or just a listening ear then please contact one of the Farming Help charities.

Asking for help is not always easy, but talking to someone who is outside your situation can be a real support. There are also many forms of practical help which may be available to you in your particular situation. If you aren't sure who to contact, ring the Farm Crisis Network's confidential Helpline on 07002 326 326.

The Farming Help Organisations

Farm Crisis Network (FCN) www.fcn.org.uk

FCN is a UK network of volunteers from the farming community and rural churches, providing a national helpline and visiting service to farming people and families facing difficulties. They provide pastoral and practical support for as long as it is needed, helping people to find a positive way forward through their problems. FCN works closely with a number of local support groups providing a similar service. Together with local churches, this enables support to be offered to any member of the farming community.
Helpline: 07002 326 326 (7am - 11pm every day)

Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) www.rabi.org.uk

RABI provides financial and practical help to members of the farming community who are facing hardship. RABI supports elderly people and those of any age who are disabled, with regular grants or one-off payments for special items that they are unable to afford themselves. Working farming families who are facing financial difficulties because of illness, bereavement or some other crisis may receive short-term help with their domestic expenses.
Helpline: 01865 727888 (weekdays, office hours)

ARC-Addington Fund www.arc-addingtonfund.org.uk

The ARC-Addington Fund runs a Strategic Rural Housing Scheme for those leaving a non-viable rural business, to allow people to exit their business with dignity and to enable them to remain living in their community. Most of the work of the ARC-Addington Fund is with farming families; in particular tenant farmers who leave farming and therefore lose their home.
Tel: 024 7669 0587 (weekdays, office hours)

Also the Samaritans are available 24 hours a day, providing emotional support for anyone in distress.
Helpline: 08457 90 90 90 www.samaritans.org

Alan Spedding, 04 July 2007

RuSource briefings provide concise information on current farming and rural issues for rural professionals. They are circulated weekly by email and produced by Alan Spedding in association with the Arthur Rank Centre, the national focus for the rural church. Previous briefings can be accessed on the Arthur Rank Centre website at http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/projects/rusource_briefings/index.html

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