



A HELPING HAND FOR TASMANIAN FARMERS

Tasmanian farmers can endure a range of challenges. When challenges mount up, it can test your financial resilience. That's why it's important to know what support is available. The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) provides assistance to farming families experiencing financial hardship, no matter what the cause of that hardship is. It's a fortnightly payment for up to four years in each specific 10-year period. It can help with your household bills and financial circumstances.

While you get FHA, a Farm Household Case Officer will guide and support you. They'll offer a referral to the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) and assist with developing and maintaining these relationships. The RFCS provides free, independent and confidential assistance to eligible farmers. The service helps you understand your financial position and the viability of your enterprise. They can help you develop and implement plans to improve your financial situation.

Your case officer will work with you to develop a Financial Improvement Agreement. This lists activities you agree to do to help improve your financial position while you get FHA. There's extra support to help cover the costs of these activities. You can get activity supplements up to \$10,000 over your lifetime if you get FHA. Activity supplements can cover training, study, advice, counselling or reasonable travel and accommodation costs related to approved activities within your agreement.

For some farmers, your goal is to keep working on the farm. The agreement may include activities to improve the farm's productivity. For others, your goal may be to find work away from the farm. The agreement can include study or training linked to farming or a completely different type of work.

Services Australia's dedicated Farmer Assistance Hotline is a phone service for farmers and their partners to talk about FHA. You'll speak with specialist staff who understand the issues affecting rural families. Call 132 316, Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8 pm.