PEACEPLUS
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CliBeef Project

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION | Agricultural Nutritionist & Forage Advisory Services

Issued by: AgriSearch • Contract: 24 months • Participating farms: 7 • Planned visits: 56

Tender details	To be completed
RFQ issue date	3/11/26
Closing date for quotations	17/11/26
Anticipated start date	January 2027
Contact / email	accounts@agrisearch.org

AgriSearch NI
Driving Excellence & Innovation
eagasc
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST
afbi AGRI-FOOD & BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

1. Background and objective

AgriSearch is Northern Ireland's farmer funded research and innovation body, dedicated to supporting a sustainable, productive, and resilient agri-food sector. AgriSearch works with farmers, researchers and industry leaders to deliver cutting-edge science and practical solutions tailored to the unique needs of local farming systems. From grassland management to livestock health and climate-smart practices, our mission is to ensure Northern Ireland's farmers are equipped for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

AgriSearch, through the CliBeef Project, invites quotations from suitably qualified agricultural nutritionists or advisory providers to support six participating beef farms over a two-year period. The project is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), part of a broader initiative to support peace and reconciliation throughout Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. The service aims to improve home-grown forage quality, feeding decisions, livestock performance and feed efficiency, while identifying opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity.

2. Scope of services

A. Quarterly farm visits and nutrition optimisation

- Eight farm visits per farm (one per quarter), totaling 56 visits over 24 months.
- Review feeding practices, forage quality, livestock performance and the nutritional needs of relevant livestock groups.
- Develop and review farm-specific feeding recommendations, including concentrate types, amounts and feeding rates.
- Identify practical opportunities to improve feed efficiency, performance and farm profitability.
- Farm walks, webinars and workshops for knowledge exchange purposes in year two of project.

B. Improving silage quality

- Advise on grass maturity, harvest timing, cutting dates and silage management.
- Support planning around the optimum harvesting window, with visits or communication timed to seasonal decisions as appropriate.
- Interpret silage test results and recommend improvements for future cuts.

C. Forage and feed analysis

- Arrange testing of pre-cut grass samples, silage/forage analysis and concentrate/feed analysis where relevant.
- Include any additional nutrition or forage analyses the supplier considers beneficial.
- Coordinate sampling and laboratory submissions, interpret results and communicate farm-specific actions.

D. Reporting and feedback

- Provide a short written summary after each visit, including key findings and practical recommendations.
- Share laboratory findings and interpretation with the farmer and CliBeef team.
- Provide a brief end-of-contract summary of activities and observed changes where measurable.

3. Testing allowance and pricing basis

The quotation should provide an all-inclusive fixed price for the 24-month service. It must account for farm visits, travel, sampling, laboratory charges, interpretation, reporting and administration. Providers must specify the types and quantities of tests included, plus any assumptions. Testing included in the contract should not generate additional charges for farmers.

Suppliers may recommend a suitable testing programme per farm. Any additional or optional tests, charges or exclusions must be clearly itemised; variations should require prior written approval.

4. Supplier requirements

- Relevant training and experience in ruminant nutrition, preferably with beef cattle production systems.
- Practical on-farm advisory experience and knowledge of forage and grassland management.
- Capacity to service all six farms for 24 months and access to appropriate quality-assured laboratory services.
- Travel across NI/ROI is required.
- Advice based on each farm's needs, independent of any obligation to purchase a particular feed product.

5. Quotation submission

Please submit a short proposal covering: (1) experience and qualifications; (2) proposed service delivery approach; (3) types and number of tests included; (4) itemised price using the table below; (5) suggested optional services; and (6) availability and start date. State the total contract price excluding VAT and identify any possible extra charges.

Service	Basis / quantity	Price ex VAT
Farm visits / nutrition advice	48 visits	£
Silage / forage analysis	State number of samples	£
Pre-cut grass testing	State number of samples	£
Concentrate / feed analysis	State number of samples	£
Other proposed analysis	Describe and quantify	£
Travel, reporting, administration	24 months	£
TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE	24 months	£

6. Evaluation and award

Quotations will be assessed for overall value for money using the indicative criteria below:

Criterion	Weight
Relevant experience and qualifications	30%
Quality and practicality of proposed advice	30%
Suitability of testing/analysis provision	20%
Price and value for money	20%

AgriSearch reserves the right not to award a contract. The RFQ process and award will be subject to AgriSearch procurement procedures and applicable funder requirements.

7. Submission instructions

Please email your quotation to accounts@agrisearch.org by Friday 17/11/2026 by 12pm, clearing stating ‘Nutrition Tender for CliBeef’. Questions or requests for clarification can be directed to Leah Steele at leah@agrisearch.org..