

Herefordshire Rural Hub

Helping Rural Businesses Thrive

July 2020 Newsletter

Herefordshire Rural Hub CIC

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Disclaimer

*The Herefordshire Rural Hub
accepts no liability for
any direct, indirect or
consequential loss
arising from any action
taken in reliance on the
information contained
in this newsletter.*

COVID-19 Coronavirus – some useful links

Gov.UK

[COVID-19 Guidance, Support & Advice](#)
[Guidance for employers and businesses](#)
[Getting tested for Coronavirus](#)

Marches Growth Hub

Information on the advice and support being offered for
[businesses, employers, self-employed.](#)

Herefordshire Council

[Coronavirus testing in Herefordshire](#) if you have symptoms

[The latest news](#) on how Coronavirus is affecting
residents and services across Herefordshire



If you need any help with collecting shopping or medication,
or just want someone to talk to at this difficult time, please
contact the **Herefordshire Council Talk Community team** using the details below.
Tel: **01432 260 027** Email: talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk

Red Tractor [COVID-19 Hub](#)

AHDB

[Up to date coronavirus-related information and advice](#)

for Farmers and Growers

APHA [TBHub](#)

Guidance from Defra on Public Rights of Way and access while
COVID-19 social distancing is in force [PROW Guidance](#)

Thank you to our **“Go To Businesses”** who can be found
on our website at

www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/go-to-businesses/

Berrys --- DJM Consulting --- Moule & Co
Hope to Achieve --- 7Y Training --- CXCS
Davis Meade Property Consultants
Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors
Mortimer Rose Wealth Management
Fisher German LLP

If you would like to be a “Go to Business” go to:-

<http://www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/apply-become-go-business/>

or contact Frances for more information –

Email admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

Deadline for **NEW** CS Mid-Tier Agreements - 31st July 2020

For further [CS information and guidance](#) on all the schemes go to

Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier remote One-to-One advice sessions

With Chris Seabridge & Associates Ltd, working on behalf of Natural England

You should already have your application pack. **The Mid-Tier application window closes on 31st July.** Farmers in the West Midlands (Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire) can book their One-to-One advice session by contacting **Jennifer Davies** (Chris Seabridge & Associates Ltd) tel: **07593 449 868** email: bookings@chrisseabridge.co.uk

Farming Recovery Fund Extension 2020 – re flooding in February 2020 is open

The Farming Recovery Fund is now open for applications from farmers whose land was flooded in February 2020, and who are located in parts of: Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, East and North Yorkshire, and a further extension in Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire & Gloucestershire. Details of the eligible areas.

Click here for the [Handbook and How to Apply](#)

All work must meet the specifications set out in the handbook. **Deadline for submitting applications is 1st Sept 2020.**

DEFRA – ELM scheme consultation & interactive webinars

Defra's ELM consultation has re-opened and is available [HERE](#) It is open until 31st July.

The consultation sets out Defra's initial thinking for ELM scheme design, providing an update on progress and overview of high-level design options. **It asks for stakeholder views and evidence on key questions** and the responses received will help to inform the detailed scheme design for both the ELM scheme starting in 2024, and the start of the National Pilot in late 2021.

Defra is also running some interactive online webinars for farmers, foresters and land managers throughout July, to share views and discuss what the ELM scheme proposals mean for them. [Dates and booking for online webinars](#)

Dairy Response Fund 2020

Defra has set up a fund to help those dairy farmers most in need in England overcome the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The new funding will help provide support to eligible dairy farmers in England who produce cows' milk.

For full details and how to apply for this one-off payment click [Dairy Response Fund 2020](#)

The deadline for submitting your application to the RPA is midnight on Friday 14 August 2020.

Defra consultation on "Contractual Relationships in the UK Dairy Industry"

This consultation is in response to concerns raised that primary producers, including dairy farmers, tend to occupy positions of relative market weakness in the food supply chain. Consensus among agricultural producers in the UK is that unequal bargaining power with processors and retailers can expose farmers to unfair treatment, with the potential to undermine equitable price transmission along the chain. **For more information about the consultation, and to have your say, click [HERE](#).**

The consultation is open until **15th September 2020**

Countryside Productivity Small Grant (CPSG) Round 2 - Claims

The RPA have extended the deadline for claims for to be received to **midnight on 31 July 2020**. All items must be in place at the location stated in your application and operational, before you submit your claim.

What you need to do

- If you still intend to claim, please buy your items and submit your claim email to CPSGclaims@rpa.gov.uk by 31 July 2020 **but earlier if at all possible**. You can use the claim template and supporting documents detailed in your Grant Funding Agreement.
- Submit your Invoices, Bank Statements and Photos as per Annex 5 of the handbook.
- The RPA will monitor the situation closely and will contact claimants again if things change. However, if you have any concerns that you will be unable to meet the new deadline date of 31 July, please email CPSGClaims@rpa.gov.uk or call **03000 200 301**.

AHDB West and Wales region – free webinars



Although the current situation provides many challenges, it is also a great opportunity for us to bring together AHDB activity in a way which will allow all West and Wales growers to have an insight.

Please see below for details of how you can get involved. Where appropriate, BASIS and NROSO points are available for attending these AHDB webinars and information is available on the webinar events pages

"Pre-harvest preparations"

Wednesday 1 July, 7pm - 8pm

With harvest just around the corner it may be obvious to focus your attention on preparing

"React, respond, recover - when things don't go to plan"

Monday 13 July, 7pm - 8pm

The 'what if' factor tests how well businesses are prepared for the unknown, especially in light of the current challenges. Contingency

the combine and grain store, but under current restrictions we will also be looking at the implications of COVID-19 on harvest preparations. This season has been challenging, so we will also explore the implications of the weather on harvest preparations. [Book Now](#)

planning is an important part of any business and will help you react to a changing situation, respond quickly to allow business continuity, and recover the business to minimise potential damage. Join AHDB and special guest Mark Blakeston for a discussion of various concepts relating to contingency planning, and advice on what you can put in place in your farm business, regardless of size. [Book Now](#)

AHDB Strategic Farm Week 2020

If you missed AHDB's Strategic Farm Week, you can now catch up with all the week's webinars and resources on the Strategic Farm Week webpage via the 'find out more' button below. The webinars cover a range of topics from mole drainage to managing reductions in plant protection products and the resources include 'how to' guides, trial update videos and the Strategic Farm Week podcast special. Find out more at [AHDB Strategic Farm Week 2020](#)

AHDB Hereford Monitor Farm – message from Richard Meredith

"The next generation of the Hereford Monitor Farm is being jointly hosted by Rob Beaumont, Martin Carr, Jack Hopkins and Adam Lewis. The next 3 years are very important for UK agriculture and this quartet have many exciting plans to help equip us for the future. By hosting as a group Jack, Rob, Martin and Adam will make in-depth comparisons of their individual businesses which will provide a wide breadth of topics for meetings.

On behalf of AHDB and all of the Hereford Monitor Farm group attendees, I would like to thank Martin Williams and Russell Price for taking us on such an exciting journey over the past three years with the Hereford Monitor Farm. Their impressive efforts ensured that we all had an incredible journey which many of us will value and remember for a long time to come."



IAgSA 2020 TRAINING AND WORKSHOP VIRTUAL DELIVERY

The Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators (IAgSA) is a professional body whose members offer a wide range of services to farming and rural businesses across the UK that include bookkeeping, payroll, livestock and cropping records, subsidy and grant applications.

IAgSA also have a UKRS accredited training programme for those embarking upon their career as a farm administrator. Covid-19 has obviously delayed some of the scheduled courses, however we are now able to deliver virtually rather than in the traditional classroom format. A [full list of accredited course content](#) is available.

Unit 1 (Farming Knowledge) has also been delivered successfully to agricultural bodies and companies who require their staff to gain a little more background knowledge.

As many of you may already be aware, IAgSA developed the Minding Your Own Business suite of workshops that help members of farming families to future proof their business and provide the opportunity to update and improve skills and knowledge. Over recent years, these have been delivered to members of Prince's Farm Resilience groups, training groups, agricultural societies and other discussion and networking groups across the country – <https://iagsa.co.uk/training/#further-training-workshops> It is now also possible to deliver these workshops on a virtual basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.iagsa.co.uk
OR CONTACT THE NATIONAL OFFICE: tel: **01604 770372** – email: iagsa@iagsa.co.uk



WEBINAR – FREE to DOWNLOAD



"Maintaining an Online Presence"

Helping you with your social media presence at this time, including taking photos for social media events such as the recent "Online Farm Sunday"

Using social media to promote the farming business is not just for one day a year and this workshop will be useful for taking photos for promoting farming stories all year round.

You can download the webinar from the Herefordshire Rural Hub website [HERE](#)

"Your Post-Brexit Rural Future"

A survey from the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC)

"We want to ensure that young people who live, study or work in rural areas are given an opportunity to share key concerns about their rural future. Students, next generation farmers, land managers and those working within allied industries are encouraged to offer their views in a new survey led by the NFYFC and Rose Regeneration.

The results from this survey, and future work from the NFYFC, can help highlight issues for post-Brexit rural policies as we emerge from the Covid-19 crisis. For this reason, we want to hear from all who care about the future of their rural environment and the British countryside."

Please [complete the survey here](#)

For more information about this work please contact Sarah Palmer - Email: sarah.palmer@nfyfc.org.uk

Nuffield Farming Scholarships - Still open for Applications

Nuffield Farming Scholarships are an amazing opportunity that can benefit careers, industry and business, as well as advancing personal development. They are recognised worldwide, and in many countries there is a network of scholars who will be pleased to assist you.

Over the years we have had some fantastic Scholars from Herefordshire who have brought back many brilliant ideas which have been shared both within Herefordshire and nationally.

The applications are now open and will close on the 31st July 2020. There is no need for formal qualifications in order to apply for a Nuffield Scholarship; instead, the Trust looks to unlock an individual's potential and broaden horizons. Scholars are selected with a view to developing tomorrow's leaders within their individual business and the industry as a whole.

To apply you need to be between 22 and 45 years of age. To find out more information please visit the website www.nuffieldscholar.org or contact our Alumni Officer **Charlotte Merson** – Email charlotte@nuffieldscholar.org



Update from the Wye & Usk Foundation

Many of you will have already seen the coverage of the Wye's algal blooms in the national press. Although algal blooms are common in the Wye, this year due to warm dry weather the algal blooms have started far earlier than usual. In recent years they have also been starting further and further up the catchment, and this year it has been higher than ever starting near Llanbister area, above the majority of sewage works.

Ordinarily we shy away from lobbying/campaigning type work, we think our time and effort is best placed working with farmers and land owners on the ground finding pragmatic solutions to issues such as this. Many of you work with us on an ongoing basis and know our usual methods. Unfortunately in this instance we have found that our usual approach cannot keep pace with the rate of expansion of the free range poultry sector in the upper Wye and the aim of our press release earlier this month was to ensure Powys CC are providing the correct advice to those seeking to build sheds. Because this has not been provided in the past many growers are now faced with the challenge of running a free range unit without the space or infrastructure for buffering the drainage from the range areas and they alone are the ones that face the criticism - not the planning authority which we feel is wholly unfair.

What the media coverage has not included is the efforts we are already making to help the poultry sector. We are currently working on a partnership project with Tesco and Noble Foods to help mitigate any risks the sites of their Welsh suppliers may pose. This project allows us to help fund works required to reduce the risk of nutrient enriched drainage leaving their sites.

So whilst the headlines appear very damning please rest assured that our priority is still to work positively on the ground with farmers to address any challenges they face in managing their land without negatively impacting on the wider environment. We can only achieve the improvements we want to see for our rivers by continuing to work together with farmers and landowners and we value the strong relationships we have with so many of you as a result this approach.

For more information on the advisory support we are able to provide or to request a visit please contact one of the WUF advisers:

Lucinda Lewis (07824 904 877); **Mike Williams** (07920 441 215); **Tom Jolley** (07545 253 155); **Jonny Pugh** (07825 743 447)

Abi Croshaw (07990 068941); **Claire Spicer** (07741 856770); **Ben Nott** (07539 902680)

Support Available from Severn Trent in the Wye Catchment

Severn Trent Water are working with the Wye & Usk Foundation to fund advice and grant schemes in the Wye on an annual basis. It is restricted to the Drinking Water Safe Guarding Zone which follows the main rivers, so if you farm on the main stem of the Wye, Lugg or Frome and would like to improve a pesticide handling area or disposal options like biobeds or biofilters there may be funding available to support this. Contact one of the advisers below to check whether you are in the eligible area and would like more information. STEPS is a competitive scheme and the application window reopens in **November 2020**. The scheme can also support biodiversity options like buffer strips, winter bird food and pollen mixes.

Catchment Advisers: Abi Croshaw (07990 068941) or **Mike Williams** (07920 441 215)

Do you have non-English speaking agricultural employees?

Posters produced by Herefordshire Council and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group are available for you to download and reproduce, giving advice for your employees on social distancing, and how to stop the spread of Coronavirus. The posters are in English, Bulgarian, Kurdish, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, & Slovak languages. **The posters have been updated to include the "contact" aspect to NHS Test and Trace.**

They can be downloaded from the Herefordshire Rural Hub website [HERE](#)

“Farming Help” providing support for farmers affected by Covid-19

The Farming Help Charities – Addington Fund, Farming Community Network (FCN), Forage Aid, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I.), and RSABI, supported by The Prince's Countryside Fund - are working together to support the Farming Community during the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak.

We recognise that this could be an anxious time for many farmers and farming families and periods of poor health or self-isolation may result in temporary practical difficulties on farm.

This initiative is in conjunction with The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, The National Farmers' Union, and the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust.

Utilising our Farming Help helpline (operated by FCN) and respective organisations/volunteer networks, we can offer the following local support. Get in touch on 03000 111 999 if you:

- Feel concerned or anxious and would like to talk to someone who understands farming, will listen to you and help you think through your options
- Would like help to draft a contingency plan to ensure you and your farm are prepared, should you be unable to work for a time.
- If you or people you rely on become ill or are self-isolating and you need to find help locally- we will endeavour to find support for you in your local area. We will source contact details of local organisations and groups who may be able to assist you in finding help to feed livestock, collect shopping or collect prescriptions if you are unable to do so. This directory will be revised and updated in the coming weeks and months.

Call **03000 111 999** or visit <http://www.farminghelp.co.uk>



The Prince's Countryside Fund/HFYFC Training Grants

As some social distancing and Covid-19 restrictions are being eased, a limited amount of training is starting to be offered, so if you are able to get something booked up, and are eligible to apply for this funding, please contact **Frances** at **Herefordshire Rural Hub** to request an application form.

The funding is easy to access. All you need to do is select which course you would like to go on and complete the application form. If your application is approved you will be able to reclaim **70%** of your training and test costs, up to a maximum of **£250**.

Applicants must be a current member of HFYFC or a past HFYFC member (up to 40 yrs old).

The fund will support training that will; *improve your employability, increase or improve your skill set, improve your safety or allow you to undertake extra responsibility in your current job.*

Whatever training you are applying for, please ensure that you submit your application form in good time before your course is due to take place, as training cannot be funded retrospectively.

For any queries or to request an application form, please email Frances at admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs COVID-19 UPDATE

It is with regret that due to Government guidance we are having to cancel all Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs' forthcoming activities. The County Office will remain closed until further notice. Emails and phone will be monitored regularly.

Contact Details

Remote Office opening hours - Mondays 1.30-9.30pm Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-5.30pm Office - **01432 274 187**

County Chairman - Ernie Richards 07800 832768 or chairman@hfyfc.org.uk

Management Chair - Fay Bevan 07557 963103 or management@hfyfc.org.uk

Herefordshire CarerLinks at Crossroads Together

Supporting unpaid family carers in Herefordshire

[Update from Herefordshire CarerLinks](#) regarding the current support they are offering during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Carers Information Line: **01432 663057** Email: herefordshire@crossroadstogether.org.uk

Website: www.crossroadstogether.org.uk

St Michael's Hospice

For up to date information on St Michael's Hospice services and visiting go to www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

St Michael's Hospice COVID 19 Bereavement Support

The Counselling and Bereavement Team at St Michael's Hospice recognise the difficulties faced by the community within the current Coronavirus pandemic. We are offering telephone listening support to any family, friend or carer who has been bereaved after losing someone from Covid 19. To find out more contact:

Sarah Jenkins tel: **01432 852627** email: sjenkins@smhospicehereford.org

Karen Evans tel: **01432 852649** email: kevans@smhospicehereford.org

Wyvern Training Services Ltd

We are delighted to be able to resume some onsite practical training activity whilst continuing to carefully monitor, manage and comply with all COVID-19 and safety requirements.

We are now able to offer single site/in-house training for limited range of courses including Lift Trucks and ATV's. Other topics are also available so, if you have any current training needs, whatever they may be, please call to discuss if and how we may be able to help. All training delivered is being thoroughly risk assessed to ensure everyone attending is kept safe and that current COVID-19 guidelines and social distancing rules are fully implemented and met. This does mean that the number of people able to attend courses may be reduced and that venues and facilities used need to meet all necessary safety, COVID and social distancing requirements.

We are currently not able to offer open courses.

Should you have any future training needs or requirements, please let us know as we are now taking provisional bookings and building courses through late Summer and Autumn

We look forward to returning to more normal business, including reinstating our open course programme, once the guidance and advice allows.

EMAIL: enquiries@wyverntrainingservices.com TEL: 07468 465 303

7Y Training Services

7Y Training Centre, Wharton Farms, Wharton, Leominster, HR6 0NX

Contact: Paula Strangwood Email: paula@7ytraining.co.uk

Covid-19 Safe Practise Instruction for 7Y Training Centre Courses

How we are making training safe for you and your candidates

We will be implementing the following measures to keep your candidates and our employees safe:

1. If a candidate has any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. new persistent cough, high temperature, loss or change to sense of smell or taste) they must not attend training. We will provide a free transfer to a future course
2. We will implement social distancing measures between everyone at all times during the course and request the same of candidates during refreshment and toilets breaks. To do this we have reduced class sizes.
3. Each candidate will receive a welfare pack on arrival which consists of personal hand-sanitiser, gloves, tissues, face mask and a pen. These packs (as with all course paperwork) have been quarantined for 7 days.
4. We have changed our training rooms around to ensure that trainers and candidates do not touch and can remain socially distanced during practical sessions
5. We will operate a 1:1 candidate to manikin ratio for First Aid courses for CPR practice and will maintain our rigorous manikin cleaning protocols

Please register your interest for any of the following courses:

Course	Dates <i>(subject to change if numbers are low)</i>	Venue
C & G Safe Use of Pesticides (PA1) <i>Max 6 candidates per course</i>	7 th July 13 th July	Leominster
C & G Ground Crop Sprayer (PA2) <i>Max 4 candidates per course</i>	8 th July 14 th July	T.B.C
C & G Ground Knapsack Sprayer (PA6) <i>Max 4 candidates per course</i>	9 th July 15 th July	Leominster

Please email Paula if you have any training requirements and register your interest for the following courses.

C & G Chainsaw Maintenance & Crosscutting <> Lantra Rough Terrain Telescopic Refresher <> ITSSAR MEWP Scissor Lift
 360 Excavator below 5 tonnes <> Rough Terrain Telescopic over 9m <> ITSSAR Counterbalance refresher
 ATV's Sit-astride Quad bikes <> Emergency First Aid at Work <> First Aid at Work <> First Aid at Work refresher
 Level 2 H&S in the workplace <> Manual Handling (am) & Fire Awareness (pm) <> Confined Spaces
 Working at Heights (Tower Scaffold & Ladders) <> Driver Certificate of Professional Competence

Are you unsure about details of rules or regulations? Need help with understanding record keeping?

- **Farming Advice Service** Email: advice@farmingadvice.service.org.uk website: www.farmingadvice.service.org.uk
 The Rural Services Helpline **03000 200 301** provides a single number for all **Farming Advice Service**, **Rural Payments Agency** or **Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)** enquiries. It is open from Monday to Friday, 8.30am till 5pm.
- **Natural England** 0300 060 1115 enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
- **Environment Agency** Sharon Chisholm (Mon, Tues, Weds) Tel: 02030 251692
 Email: sharon.chisholm@environment-agency.gov.uk
- **N.F.U.** (Herefordshire) Clare Greener Tel: 01432 807464 Mob: 07771 626080 Email: Clare.Greener@nfu.org.uk
- **C.L.A.** (Midlands) Helen Dale Tel: 01785 337010 Email: helen.dale@cla.org.uk
- **Animal Health & Trading Standards** (Herefordshire) Tim Barber Tel: 01432 383145 Fax: 01432 383169

Could you or someone you know benefit from support:-

- **Farming Community Network** 03000 111 999 website: <http://www.fcn.org.uk/>
- **Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)** 0808 2819490 website: <http://www.rabi.org.uk/>
- **Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy** 07966 927404 website: www.borderchaplain.org
- **You Are Not Alone (YANA)** 0300 323 0400 website: www.yanahelp.org/
- **Farming Help** 0845 367 9990 website: www.farminghelp.org.uk/
- **Addington Fund** 01926 620 135 website: www.addingtonfund.org.uk/
- **Herefordshire Samaritans** website: www.samaritans.org/branches/herefordshire-samaritans
- **Carerstrust 4 All – Hereford CarerLinks** 01432 663057 website: www.carerstrust4all.org.uk

Copy deadline for the next newsletter is 15th July

*If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Frances at Herefordshire Rural Hub
Email: admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk*