

Herefordshire Rural Hub

Helping Rural Businesses Thrive

December 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.*



Herefordshire Rural Hub has recently
been awarded a grant by
The Prince's Countryside Fund,
supported by the
NFU Mutual Charitable Trust.



NFU Mutual
Charitable Trust



Congratulations to all the
winners and the finalists of the
2020 Three Counties Farmer
Farming Awards.

You can watch the online ceremony on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/herefordtimes/videos/373391050413865>

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 --- Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors
Hope to Achieve --- 7Y Training --- Moule & Co
CXCS --- Davis Meade Property Consultants
Mortimer Rose Wealth Management
Stop That Thief --- 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

Herefordshire Rural Hub website
www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

You can also follow us on  [twitter@Hfds_RuralHub](https://twitter.com/Hfds_RuralHub)

and on **Facebook**  - search *Herefordshire Rural Hub*

Annual Sheep and Goat inventory for England

The annual sheep and goat inventory for farmers in **England** should be completed for **1st December** and returned to Defra **by 31st December**. You should receive your forms in the post or via email from DEFRA.

In addition, you should include your annual inventory total as at 1st December in your holding register.

You can complete your form [online](#) or by post – before 31st December.

This is a requirement of cross compliance rule Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) 8: Sheep and goat identification. The holding register document should be retained on your holding and will be reviewed at an inspection.

Avian Influenza Prevention Zone in [England](#), [Wales](#) and [Scotland](#).

There is updated [biosecurity guidance](#) and a new [self-assessment biosecurity checklist](#) for all bird keepers in GB. The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone means it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in GB (whether you've pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) to follow strict biosecurity measures. You should use the biosecurity guidance and self-assessment checklist to help enhance and maintain robust biosecurity measures and reduce the risk of incursion of avian influenza into their birds.

Whilst it is important to continue to prevent contact between wild birds and poultry, members are reminded of the need to look at all their biosecurity measures, in particular the movement on and off of people, vehicles and equipment. Members should ensure that records (preferably electronic) of all movements of vehicles and equipment, alongside routine production records in relation to food and water intakes, egg productions and daily mortality are kept.

Government sets out its plan for agricultural transition in England

The Government has published [“The Path to Sustainable Farming: An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024”](#).

This sets out the changes the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will make to English agricultural policy over the 7-year agricultural transition period and explains what those changes will mean for farmers and land managers in practice.

Update on the 3rd round of the extended [Self-employed Income Support Scheme](#)

The third grant will cover the 3-month period from November 2020 - January 2021. To make a claim for the third grant your business must have had a new or continuing impact from coronavirus between 1 November 2020 and 29 January 2021. The Government will provide a taxable grant calculated at 80% of 3 months average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment and capped at £7,500 in total. **If you are eligible you can make a claim between 30th November 2020 and 29th January 2021.**

Update on the [Bounce Back Loan](#)

Bounce Back Loans are interest free for the first 12 months and then 2.5% annual interest for the remainder of the term. The loan term is 6 years, but there is now an option to extend to 10 years. Interest only periods of up to six months and payment holidays for struggling businesses have also been introduced.

If you already have a Bounce Back Loan but borrowed less than you were entitled to, you can top up your existing loan to your maximum amount. **You must request the top-up by 31 January 2021.**

The scheme is open to applications until 31 January 2021.

The [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) (furlough scheme) has been extended until **31st March 2021**.

Income Tax

For self-assessment bills less than **£30,000** previously payable by 31/01/21. HMRC will give preferential consideration for a “time to pay” arrangement, giving an extra 12 months to pay the tax.



**Free Webinars for you to view
on the Herefordshire Rural Hub website**



2 FREE mini masterclass online videos (20-30 mins each) with Tara Punter PR

1 - How to create a marketing strategy

Do you feel overwhelmed when it comes to marketing? Know you should be doing but unsure what you should be saying? Check out this mini masterclass where expert Tara Best, of Tara Punter PR shares her bitesized top tips that you can action immediately, helping you become more visible online.

2 - How to use video as part of your social media campaign

Video marketing has never been so important, with a staggering 82% of all content online set to be video in 2021. The social platforms really favour it, but what should you be filming and how do you do it? Tara Best, of Tara Punter PR shares her top tips with actionable steps so you can get started right away, helping you become more visible online.

Click [HERE](#) to view the videos

Thursday 17th December 2020, 5pm – 6.30 pm**Zoom webinar and discussion with Russ Carrington**

Russ is a regenerative farming and supply chain consultant, and coordinator of the Global Grassfed Alliance. He was formerly at the helm of the Pasture-Fed Livestock Association in the UK and tirelessly promotes the benefits of regenerative agriculture for animals, farmers, and consumers.

He also sits on a European Focus Group for Sustainable Beef and holds various roles across the young farmer and rural youth networks nationally and internationally to help develop rural leaders of the future.

To book your place please email: bookings@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

You will be sent the Zoom link shortly before the webinar

Other enquiries to Caroline Hanks Email: caroline.hanks@farming4wildlife.co.uk Tel: 07779 080940 / 01981 251016

**Lots of free webinars for farmers**

This winter the normal programme of Monitor Farm and Strategic Farm meetings will be online. AHDB have planned a programme of "Monitor Farm Mondays" webinars and other digital Strategic Farm and Agronomy events.

Click on / Go to the links below for more information on each webinar and to register for your place. Following registration, you will receive a link to join the webinar so you can either watch live or catch up at a later date.

Coming up in December:

Where appropriate, BASIS and NRoSO points are available for attending these webinars and information is available on the webinar events pages.

- [Agronomy Week 2020](#) 30th November – 4th December
- [Fertiliser Calibration – the Principles](#) Weds 9th December, 9am – 10am
- [Preserve Soils, Reduce Erosion](#) Weds 9th December, 2pm – 3.30pm
- [Growing Grass – Simple Use of Nutrients & Fertiliser](#) Thurs 17th December, 7pm – 8pm

Details of other AHDB events are listed on our website at <https://ahdb.org.uk/events>

And, in case you missed any, recordings of previous AHDB webinars can be found on the AHDB "Online events and webinar archive" at <https://ahdb.org.uk/webinars>

Farmers Weekly & AHDB Webinar series: Leaving the EU - What happens next?

As the UK prepares for the end of transition in January 2021, Farmers Weekly have partnered with AHDB to bring you a series of three webinars offering insights and technical advice for the agri-food industry.

2 more webinars in the series, coming in December

For more details and to book your place on one or both of the webinars [Register HERE](#)

Thursday, 10th December: 17:00 - 18:15

From BPS to ELMs - Get ready for the changes coming to farm support

Tuesday, 15th December: 17:00 - 18:15

Farmer to farmer: Tackling the biggest challenges post Brexit

Farming Advice Service webinar programme for farmers

The Farming Advice Service (FAS) invites you to attend a series of FREE webinars.

They start in December and run through to early 2021.

If you are unable to attend any of the live broadcasts, a recording of each one will be made available on the FAS website.

For more information on the webinars go to <http://farmingadvice.service.org.uk/events/events/>

To book, click on the links below

- [Farming rules for water – what are they?](#) Thursday 10 December, 10:00 to 11:00
- [Nitrate Vulnerable Zones \(NVZ\) a refresher.](#) Tuesday 15 December, 19:00 to 20:00
- [Cross compliance and greening update – what's new for 2021?](#) Tuesday 19 January, 15:30 to 16:30
- [Heading towards net zero emissions in agriculture.](#) Tuesday 26 January, 10:00 to 11:00

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 is from **1st November 2020 until 31st January 2021**

If you would like any further information, then please contact either of the advisers below
Catchment Advisers: Abi Croshaw (07990 068941) or **Mike Williams** (07920 441215)

The Severn Trent Pesticide Amnesty is running again for 2021 as part of their Farming for Water Programme.

The scheme is completely confidential, free, and based on a first come first serve basis.

It is available to anyone in the [Drinking Water Safeguard Zone](#). Full details [HERE](#)

You need to register your details between 1st December 2020 and 16th January 2021.

By either Email to amnesty@chemtastic.com or telephone **01287 213155**.



Advice & Support Available Across Herefordshire from the Wye & Usk Foundation

**We are still working to support farmers during these strange times
– if you need any advice please contact one of our Catchment Advisers as usual.**



Natural Flood Management Grants: There are still grants available to support delivery of action that helps increase water retention in the landscape - so far this has funded grassland aeration, subsoiling, cover cropping, attenuation ponds, hedge planting and leaky dams. The target catchments are the Dulas,

Bodenham, Pentaloe, Tedstone, Cheaton, Ridgemore, Yazor and Red/Twyford Brook. If you farm in one of the target catchments and would like to find out more please click [HERE](#) or call one of our advisers. The NFM grant is funded through DEFRA and administered by Herefordshire Council.

Water Quality: The levels of phosphate in the rivers and streams is still higher than it should be and we are working hard to support local farmers to reduce losses from agricultural sources – which still contributes 50% of the P in our rivers. We are able to provide free confidential farm advice for any yard or land management challenges you may be facing. We can provide soil structure assessments, OM testing, yard advice, stewardship advice... the list goes on!

For more information 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 068 941); **Claire Spicer** (07741 856 770); **Ben Nott** (07539 902 680); **Rebecca Meredith** (07539 902 681)

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)



CSF are continuing to work on addressing issues with **water and air quality** in the Wye and Teme catchments.

If you would like to find out whether your farm is eligible for our free advice, please get in touch with us via the contact details below so that we can confirm whether your farm is on our priority list.

Some of the advice that we can offer includes:

- *Making your **farm infrastructure** less risky to water and air quality.*
- *Reducing **run-off and compaction** around the farm.*
- *Methods to improve **soil husbandry and soil health**.*
- *Addressing **nutrient management and pesticide handling**.*

If your farm is on our priority list and you would like to consider getting grant funding from the **Countryside Stewardship Scheme** in 2021 to tackle issues associated with water/air quality, please get in touch with us. Experience has shown that starting discussions with us early is likely to result in better applications.

River Wye Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers

Rachel Bosanquet	<i>tel: 07770 331 669</i>	<i>email: rachel.bosanquet@naturalengland.org.uk</i>
Sue Buckingham	<i>tel: 07833 095 708</i>	<i>email: sue.buckingham@naturalengland.org.uk</i>
Ollie Cooke	<i>tel: 07884 996 938</i>	<i>email: oliver.cook@naturalengland.org.uk</i>

River Teme Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers

Wayne Davies	<i>tel: 01588 640 980</i>	<i>email: wayne.davies@naturalengland.org.uk</i>
Sally Powell	<i>tel: 07770 645 037</i>	<i>email: sally.powell@naturalengland.org.uk</i>
James Griffiths	<i>tel: 07812 240 896</i>	<i>email: james.griffiths@naturalengland.org.uk</i>

DEFRA consultation on the use of Urea - reducing Ammonia emissions from Urea fertilisers

The government has launched a **consultation on reducing ammonia emissions from urea fertilisers**.

The consultation is open until 26th January 2021, and sets out three policy options for reducing ammonia emissions by regulating the use or sale of solid urea – liquid urea would be excluded from any new rules.

The three options being consulted on are:

- A ban on solid urea fertilisers
- A requirement to stabilise solid urea fertilisers with the addition of a urease inhibitor
- A requirement to restrict the spreading of solid urea fertilisers, allowable only from 15 January to 31 March

To have your say click [HERE](#)

Rules for farmers and land managers to prevent water pollution

What you must do to manage manure, fertiliser and soil to prevent runoff, erosion and leaching.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rules-for-farmers-and-land-managers-to-prevent-water-pollution>

COVID-19 Coronavirus – some useful links

Herefordshire Council

[Covid-19 support for farms](#)

Herefordshire COVID-19 Engagement Working Group

[Key Messages and FAQ's](#)

Covid-19 Farm Preventative Packs

Following on from their webinars for farmers, Herefordshire Council have created an online Farm Preventative Pack. This pack is to help support local farms with resources such as training videos, signage and links to the relevant guidance.

You can access the pack from the Council website [CLICK HERE](#)

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

Marches Growth Hub

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

Gov.UK

[COVID-19 Guidance, Support & Advice](#)

[Covid-19 Symptoms](#)

[Getting tested for Coronavirus](#)

[Local restrictions: areas with an outbreak of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Guidance for employers and businesses on working safely during coronavirus](#)

- for all types of businesses. Find out how to make your workplace COVID-secure

AHDB

[Up to date coronavirus-related information & advice](#) for Farmers and Growers

APHA [TBHub](#)

Red Tractor [COVID-19 Hub](#)



Watch On Demand

Farm succession planning during the Covid-19 crisis

Coronavirus certainly hasn't made succession planning any easier and sadly it will have forced the issue for some families. The experts in this webinar touched on legal and tax implications of planning for succession early and on making sure that plans for retirement are in place looking at both pension plans and insurance.

[Watch the On Demand webinar](#) moderated by Farmers Weekly's Suzie Horne to find out more.



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

The Jack Hughes Fund - administered by Herefordshire Community Foundation

The Jack Hughes Fund is available to farmers and farm staff aged over 40 years working on a **Herefordshire** farm. The amount of funding available is up to a maximum of 70% of the course cost to an overall maximum of £200.

The programme is available for farmers and farm staff aged over 40 (limited to one family member/employee per farming business per year).

It will specifically provide funds to support those who require:

- retraining or upskilling as they are leaving the industry
- training to support a new farm diversification enterprise
- training or business support for succession planning

Funding will also be available for farm related training courses (examples below)

- Safe use of pesticides – PA1, PA2, PA6
- Rodent control on farms
- Emergency first aid
- Food safety (Basic Food Hygiene)
- Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross Cutting (CS30)

Other courses will be considered on application

The funding is easy to access, but please note that the project will not support training retrospectively & places will be limited.

Applicants need to be resident in Herefordshire.

For further details or an application form contact:- **Herefordshire Community Foundation**

The Fred Bulmer Centre, Wall Street, Hereford, HR4 9HP. Email: administrator@herefordshirecf.org Phone: 01432 272550

Website: www.herefordshirefoundation.org

Herefordshire & Ludlow College

Tel: **0800 032 1986** Email: enquiries@hlcollege.ac.uk Website: www.hlcollege.ac.uk

All courses are held at Holme Lacy Campus, Holme Lacy, HR2 6LL

<u>Course</u>	<u>Course dates in 2021</u>	
CS30 Chainsaw Maintenance & Crosscutting 2 days + assessment	20 th – 21 st January	10 th – 11 th February
CS31 Felling & Processing Trees up to 380mm 3 days + assessment	11 th – 13 th January	22 nd – 24 th February
CS30/31 Maintenance, Cross-cutting & Felling Trees up to 380mm 5 days + assessment	8 th – 12 th March	
CS32 Felling & Processing Trees over 380mm 3 days + assessment	27 th – 29 th January	
CS38 Accessing a Tree Using a Rope and Harness 5 days + assessment	15 th – 19 th February	12 th – 16 th April
CS39 Aerial cutting of trees using free fall technique 3 days + assessment	6 th – 8 th April	
Safe Use of Pesticides – Foundation Module PA1	12 th January	23 rd March
Safe Use of Pesticides – Ground Crop Sprayers PA2	8 th April	
Safe Use of Pesticides – Handheld Applicators PA6	19 th January	24 th March
Tractor Driving 13 – 16 year olds	tbc	

Courses run subject to demand

(some courses can be run off-site at your own venue subject to numbers – please contact the college for information and prices).

Ground based Chainsaw Refresher <> Maintain & Operate your Chainsaw (Hobby User)

Safe Use of Brushcutters & Strimmers <> PA6 Handheld Applicators Refresher

PA6AW Handheld Applicator in or near Water <> PA4 Slug Pellet Applicator

Safe use of Vertebrate Pest Control – Rodents (Rats & Mice). <> Safe use of Vertebrate Pest Control – Aluminium Phosphide

ATV Handling (Experienced Operators). <> Tractor Driving & Handling (Adults)

Rough Terrain Telehandler <> Safe use of Manually Fed Wood-Chipper

Wyvern Training Services Ltd

We continue to provide some onsite practical training activity for clients whilst continuing to carefully monitor and comply with all COVID-19 requirements.

We are 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 the safety of everyone involved 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 personal 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, in the New Year once the guidance and advice allows.

After what has been a very strange and challenging year for everyone, we would like to wish all readers of the Hub Newsletter a restful Christmas and send best wishes for a COVID free, safe and prosperous 2021.

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

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

- 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 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

"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. 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.

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

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 December

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