



March Newsletter

Spring is on the way...

With the recent announcements from DEFRA on schemes it wasn't surprising our ELMS Workshops on the 15th were massively oversubscribed. We gave attendees an overview of the details now known about SFI standards coming later in 2023 and a demonstration of how to use Rural Payments online to see what the current SFI standards could look like for your farm.

We also outlined the revised Countryside Stewardship Plus scheme with info on the options and payment rates. Thank you to all those that attended, we had some great feedback about what support businesses would like next including more events on each SFI standard and drop in sessions to help understand the application process.

Keep an eye on the newsletter to find out when these will be running over the coming months.

Our ELMS workshops were delivered as part of our Prince's Countryside Fund "Farm for the Future" project, as well as events, signing up for the project will provide access to free 1:1 support to help you make informed decisions about the future of your business – more info in the Advice & Support section below.



Upcoming Events

DEFRA Landscape Recovery – Webinar

Wednesday 8th March, 12.30 -
2pm, Online.



Vending Sheds and Online Sales: Selling good food direct in Herefordshire

Wednesday 8th March, 6 - 8pm
online, details [here](#).



Update on SFI Soil Standards

Thursday 9th March, 2-
3.30pm. Witcombe & Bentham
Village Hall, GL3 4TB



We Are Farming Minds - FREE Mental Health Awareness Workshop

Wednesday 15th March, Duchy
of Cornwall Offices, Dewsall.
Morning or afternoon sessions
available.



We Are Farming Minds - Top Gun: Maverick

Saturday 25th March, 6pm.
The Gateway Cinema, Ross on
Wye.



Spring Plant Fair

Sunday 26th April, 10.30am to
4pm. Broxwood Court, near
Pembroke.

See our Events Calendar for all event details here.

Advice & Support

Prince's Countryside Fund's Farm for the Future

Herefordshire Rural Hub is delivering a series of free training events and 1:1 support so farmers can make informed decisions about the future of their farm business and discover opportunities with the ELM schemes that may financially and practically benefit their farm.

DEFRA's Future Farm Resilience Fund

Herefordshire Rural Hub are working with Ricardo to deliver this programme locally. It offers 1:1 support, webinars and podcasts about a variety of topics relating to the Agricultural Transition.

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

The WUF Catchment Advisers can assist with Woodland Creation Applications, Severn Trent pesticide grant scheme applications and undertake natural capital surveys in the Wye Valley AONB.

Mental Health & Wellbeing in the Agricultural Community - Survey

Do you work in farming or agriculture; or perhaps someone in your family or someone you care for does? Have you, or that person, had any issues with their mental health or wellbeing, or had to seek support from mental health services? We want you to tell us what you think the issues are that may be specific to your community. Click [here](#) for survey.

Animal Health & Welfare

Annual Review is opening soon where livestock owners can apply for a funded vet visit. Expression of interest can be submitted [here](#) and more information can be found in this [blog](#).

Free Specialist Advice Visits available with Catchment Sensitive Farming

CSF offer a number of free specialist visits to farmers within the Wye catchment including nutrient management planning, infrastructure audits and advice on Countryside Stewardship Schemes.

Tree health pilot scheme 2022

The Tree Health Pilot to improve the support is now available to farmers and land managers dealing with tree pest and disease issues. More [here](#).

Gamekeepers' Welfare Trust Nurse Advice Clinic

The Gamekeepers' Welfare Trust has launched a new resource which includes the chance for anyone in the family to speak or meet online with a trained nurse. The GWT Nurse Advice Clinic will be available Mondays 9 – 11am and Wednesdays 6 – 8pm

DJM Consulting - farm and rural business consultancy

Useful Links

DEFRA Future Farming Blog

Livestock Information Service

John Nix Pocketbook

Farm Fire Safety Leaflet

Click [here](#) for AHDB Events



Funding & Schemes

Latest

DEFRA Issue Update on Environmental Land Management Schemes, including:

1. Payment rates Sustainable Farming Incentive & Countryside Stewardship options
2. Information on ELMS' middle tier, an evolved version of Countryside Stewardship
3. Introduced 6 new Sustainable Farming Incentive standards, adding to the 3 existing ones, which will become available this summer.

[Find out all the details here](#)

Want to create or restore flower rich grassland in the Wye Catchment?

Air Wick and WWF-UK have partnered with The Wye & Usk Foundation and Herefordshire Meadows to offer capital payments for meadow creation and restoration in the Wye Catchment.

Severn Woodlands Grant Scheme

A grant scheme in the River Severn catchment with no minimum scheme size to qualify and payments up to £5000/ha. Severn Rivers Trust will provide support on designing the woodland, completing the application and undertaking the work.

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund 2023

You can apply for a grant for specific items of equipment and technology for farming, horticultural and forestry businesses.

Rural Payments Agency; Schemes & Grants

Find out everything you need to know about Sustainable Farming Incentive, Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Water Capital Grants, Farming Investment Fund and Lump Sum Exit Scheme.

Woodland Creation Grants Available

Use the Forestry Commission EWCO to create new woodland, including through natural colonisation, on areas as small as 1ha. Land managers will receive payments of over £10,000/ha to support their woodland creation scheme.

DEFRA's Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

Are you a farmer, land manager or a collaborative group in the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB)? Funding is

FETF 2023 has been split into 2 themes:

- Productivity and Slurry items ([Annex 3](#))
- Animal Health and Welfare items ([Annex 4](#)).

You can apply to either theme or both, for items that best suit your business. FETF 2023 grant is competitive, and you will not automatically get a grant. More [here](#).

available for capital works and project activity.

Berrys - a property consultancy business, covering all property-related services.

Jack Hughes Fund

Support available to farmers and farm staff aged over 40 years working on a Herefordshire farm that wish to undertake training or development.

Marches Energy Grant

Help for businesses to improve their energy efficiency and drive down carbon emissions has been launched by the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership.

CLA Charitable Trust

Grants for charitable organisations supporting disadvantaged children, young people & adults through delivering rural access, recreation & education opportunities.

Energy Bill Relief Scheme

Currently provides a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices for all non-domestic consumers



Regulation

Latest

Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) is in an avian influenza prevention zone (AIPZ). By law you must follow strict biosecurity rules to [prevent bird flu and stop it spreading](#).

In England and Wales the AIPZ also means you must house your birds to protect them from bird flu. You can find out about the latest bird flu situation in England and guidance for bird keepers and the public on GOV.UK. Information on compensation can also be found on [GOV.UK](#).

Waste: Environmental Permits

Check if you need a permit to use, treat, store or dispose of waste and find out how to apply.

Animal Transport Authorisations

If you move animals more than 65km as part of your business activity or for trade you must have a transport authorisation issued by APHA.

Animal Gathering Licenses

If you want to hold an animal gathering, the premises must have an [Animal Gatherings Order \(AGO\) licence](#) from APHA

Farming Rules for Water

The rules require good farming practice, so that farmers manage their land both to avoid water pollution.

Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors

Useful Contacts

Rural Services Helpline

Single number for all Farming Advice Service, Rural Payments Agency or Animal and Plant Health Agency queries - Tel: [03000 200 301](tel:03000200301)

Natural England

Tel: [0300 060 1115](tel:03000601115) Email: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

Animal Health & Trading Standards

Tim Barber (Herefordshire) Tel: [01432 383145](tel:01432383145)
Fax: [01432 383169](tel:01432383169)

Environment Agency

Local Contact: Suzanne King-Davies Tel: [02030 251573](tel:02030251573) Email: suzanne.king-davies@environment-agency.gov.uk

Country Land & Business Association

Helen Dale (Rural Adviser - Midlands) Tel: [01785 337010](tel:01785337010) Email: helen.dale@cla.org.uk

National Farmers Union

Ali Parker (Herefordshire County Adviser) Tel: [01952 400500](tel:01952400500)
Email: Ali.Parker@nfu.org.uk

Health & Safety Executive

Rural Crime Prevention - West Mercia Police

Classified Adverts

RJ Trees

RJ Trees and Hedging is a new specialist bare



root nursery near Ross-on-Wye, growing tree saplings for forestry/woodland creation or restocking and native hedging plants.

With over 2 million plants in production in many varieties, and stock of the highest quality grown by Ray Jenkins who has over 35 years' experience, please take advantage of this new Herefordshire based grower for your woodland and hedging projects.

Contact Ray Jenkins for a quote on [07512 024007](tel:07512024007) for order online at www.rjtreesandhedging.co.uk.

Training Providers

7Y Training Services

- Chainsaw maintenance
- Emergency first aid at work
- Mental health first aid
- Rough terrain telescopic & ATVs
- Safe use of pesticides & slug pellets

See full list of courses at our website [here](#). To email 7Y [click here](#).

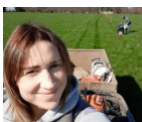
Hereford & Ludlow College

- Felling & processing trees
- Safe use of pesticides
- Tractor Driving for 13-16yr olds
- Chainsaw maintenance
- Safe use of vertebrate pest control

For course details [click here](#) or visit our [website](#) for a list of courses.

7Y Training Services

Our Team



Lizzie Davidson - Editor

To place an advert or promote an event [click here](#).



Fran Keogh - Administrator

For advertising packages, admin or finance queries [click here](#).



Sarah Starkey - Farm Resilience Project Manager

For info about any of our resilience projects [click here](#).



Cherelyn Griffiths-Gould Farm Herefordshire Coordinator

For info about events and 1:1 advice available from our partners [click here](#).

Martha Rudge - Farm Resilience Project

Kate Speke-Adams - Managing Director



Officer

For info about any of our resilience projects [click here](#).



To discuss any issues facing your business, our projects or opportunities to work with us [click here](#).



Working with
**THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE FUND**

**We're proud to have been
selected by PCF to be part of their
Farm Support Group Initiative**

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.*

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