



October Newsletter

The facts behind the rumours...

In response to the deteriorating condition of our local rivers, Avara have now outlined the changes they are making to the way poultry manure from their supply chain is managed. They confirmed that "litter from the Avara supply chain will no longer be available for sale, as fertiliser, within the Wye catchment."

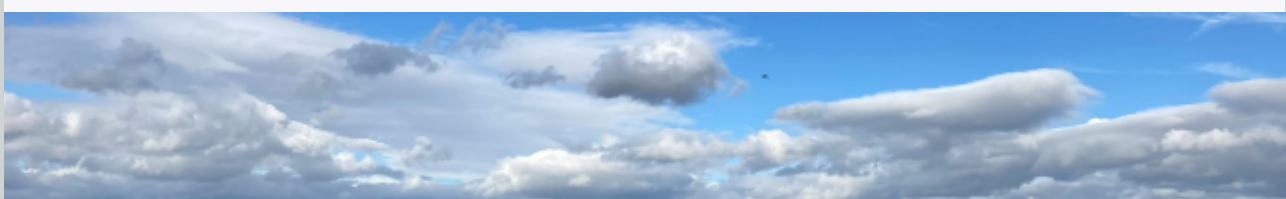
This means it will not be possible for farmers in Herefordshire to buy **any** poultry manure from third party sales, neighbours, family members or friends if the site is an Avara supplier.

Where an Avara supplier can demonstrate nutrient need on their own land holding they themselves will be able to use poultry manure, subject to compliance with a new Red Tractor soil and nutrient assurance standard to ensure regulatory compliance and traceability requirements are met. What remains of the ~158,000t of manure will be sold to and exported out of the catchment by Gamber Poultry Litter Ltd.

This decision has not been taken lightly by Avara and they recognise the likely significant financial implications for farm businesses that have previously utilised poultry manure and will now need to purchase those nutrients from other sources or in artificial form.

This is likely to be the position for the foreseeable future. If the new Red Tractor standard can provide the enhanced level of rigour and necessary evidence to demonstrate compliant use it is hoped that it can enable use of poultry manure by other farmers in the catchment too.

Whatever the future holds this should prompt all farmers, big or small, to look closely at the nutrient balance of their enterprise. The members of the [Herefordshire Agri Group](#) are already doing just that; working together to complete farm phosphate balances, identifying opportunities to improve nutrient efficiency, and test water on their farms to better understand our impact. If you would like to join them [please get in touch](#).



Upcoming Events



Farm for the Future; Animal Health & Welfare Workshop

Weds 4th Oct

11.00-13.00

The Dog Inn, Ewyas Harold,
HR2 0EX

[Book your place here!](#)



Trees on the Farm; for wildlife & for the farm business

Weds 18th Oct

9.30-13.30

Townsend Farm, Brampton
Abbots, HR9 7JE



Breakfast on the Farm

Sun 22nd Oct

09.00-12.00

Townsend Farm, Brampton
Abbots, HR9 7JE

Adults £15, Kids go free



Farm for the Future; Environment Schemes & SFI Workshop

Weds 25th Oct

Morning or Afternoon sessions
available

The Dog Inn, Ewyas Harold



Rural Business Advice Day 2023

Herefordshire's Go To Event for
Rural Businesses

Tues 14th Nov

Hereford Racecourse, HR4 9QU



Natural Flood Management Event

Tues 28th Nov

13.00-16.00

Queenswood Country Park,
HR6 0PY

[Click here to see our Events Calendar](#)

Advice & Support



Join our "Fit for the Future" group for under 40s

Are you under 40 and taking on a family business or starting your own enterprise?

We want to make sure you and your business are fit for the future.



Our new group brings together like minded farmers for a series of workshops and farm walks to learn from other farmers and consultants about how others have:

- Adopted new approaches
- Diversified income streams
- Utilised funding schemes and
- Grown their skill set to suit their business.

In addition to the group workshops each member can access free 1:1 business advice from Andersons which could include:

- Joint Ventures or Tenancies
- Analysis of Capital Investment & Future Funding
- Forward Budgeting & Cashflow Management
- Diversification & Feasibility Studies

Next group meeting about Business Diversification is scheduled for 14th November

[Sign up here to find out more!](#)

FREE FARM BUSINESS ADVICE OPEN TO ALL*

Provided by DJM Consulting, funded by DEFRA's Future Farming Resilience Fund. *Subject to eligibility

Includes optional accounts analysis, an on-farm visit and progress discussions. Advice tailored to your needs, e.g. a **strategic business review**, **joint venture farming** guidance, **succession planning**, **environmental schemes** or **productivity grants**... the list goes on!

Email Helen Newbrook at helen@theruralbusiness.co.uk or Tel: [01746 714089](tel:01746714089).



Advice available across Herefordshire from the Wye & Usk Foundation

The WUF Catchment Advisers can assist with:

- Woodland Creation Applications,
- Severn Trent pesticide schemes and
- Natural capital surveys in the Wye Valley AONB.

Herefordshire Council - Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project

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
- Countryside Stewardship Schemes.

Animal Health & Welfare Scheme

Register your interest now to access

Advice and grants are available to support farmers in priority catchments to deliver actions on their farm to store more water on their land and in their soils to protect properties downstream at risk of flooding.

The project covers the Bodenham, Brimfield, Cheaton, Ridgemoor, Dulas, Pentoloe, Tedstone, Red, Norton and Twyford Brooks.

To find out more [click here](#).

the Annual Health and Welfare Review.

This is a fully funded annual visit from your chosen vet to provide advice on your animals health and welfare priorities. The visit can include diagnostic testing for endemic diseases like BVD.

Click [here](#) to register or more information can be found in this [blog](#).



Sustainable Farming Incentive

SFI actions for soils Annual payment: £5.80 per hectare and an additional payment of £95 per agreement SAM1 - Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a soil management plan Annual payment: £129 per hectare SAM2 - Multi-species winter cover crops Annual payment: £382 per hectare SAM3 - Herbal leys	SFI actions for integrated pest management Annual payment: £55 per hectare IPM3 - Companion crop on arable and horticultural land Annual payment: £45 per hectare IPM4 - No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops	SFI actions for farmland wildlife on improved grassland Annual payment: £474 per hectare IGL2 - Winter bird food on improved grassland
SFI actions for moorland Annual payment: £10.30 per hectare and an additional payment of £265 per agreement MOR1 - Assess moorland and produce a written record	SFI actions for nutrient management Annual payment: £589 NUM1 - Assess nutrient management and produce a review report (agreement level SFI action) Annual payment: £102 per hectare NUM2 - Legumes on improved grassland Annual payment: £593 per hectare NUM3 - Legume fallow	Actions for buffer strips Annual payment: £451 per hectare AHL4 - 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on arable and horticultural land Annual payment: £235 per hectare IGL3 - 4m to 12m grass buffer strip on improved grassland
SFI actions for hedgerows Annual payment: £3 per 100 metres – one side HRW1 - Assess and record hedgerow condition Annual payment: £10 per 100 metres – one side HRW2 - Manage hedgerows Annual payment: £10 per 100 metres – both sides HRW3 - Maintain or establish hedgerow trees	SFI actions for farmland wildlife on arable and horticultural land Annual payment: £614 per hectare AHL1 - Pollen and nectar flower mix Annual payment: £732 per hectare AHL2 - Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land Annual payment: £590 per hectare AHL3 - Grassy field corners and blocks	SFI actions for low input grassland Annual payment: £151 per hectare LIG1 - Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (outside SDAs) Annual payment: £151 per hectare LIG2 - Manage grassland with very low nutrient inputs (SDAs)
SFI actions for integrated pest management Annual payment: £989 IPM1 - Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan (this action applies to an SFI agreement, rather than a specific area of land (an 'agreement level SFI action')) Annual payment: £673 per hectare IPM2 - Flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips	SFI actions for farmland wildlife on improved grassland Annual payment: £333 per hectare IGL1 - Take improved grassland field corners or blocks out of management	CONTACT US If you have any questions about SFI, email us at ruralpayments@defra.gov.uk or telephone 03000 200 301 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm, except bank holidays).

The **Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)** is now open for applications. First step is to Register your Interest. This request is normally processed within 4 weeks, so in the meantime get your mapping and land use codes up to date.

Once you are invited to make your application there is a useful ["How to" video available](#) to help you through the process step by step.

The manual for the scheme and summary leaflets for arable, livestock and upland farms have been produced to help inform which actions may suit best:

- Full scheme manual: [Sustainable Farming Incentive \(SFI\) Handbook for SFI 2023](#)
- Upland farms guide: [DEFRA SFI Upland](#)
- Arable farms guide: [Defra SFI Arable](#)
- Livestock farms guide: [Defra SFI Livestock](#)

Register interest here for on-farm SFI workshops or drop-in clinics

Round the Kitchen Table SFI Meetings

We are working with our Farm Herefordshire partners to deliver 12 on farm workshops to look at SFI in detail, in particular how to undertake the soil assessments to meet the soils standards.

If you'd like to join or host one of these meetings please [get in touch with us here.](#)

Training grants available from the Jack Hughes Fund

The age range for the Jack Hughes Fund has recently been revised. Funding is now available to farmers and farm staff, aged **30 years and above**, working on Herefordshire farms that wish to undertake training or development.

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.

Severn Trent Environmental Protection Scheme

To protect their drinking water abstraction from the Wye, Severn Trent fund works on farm to reduce risk of pesticides entering watercourses. The priority area follows the main rivers but if you have any land in it your whole farm may be eligible. Spring Steps 2023 will be available from the 1st April 2023.

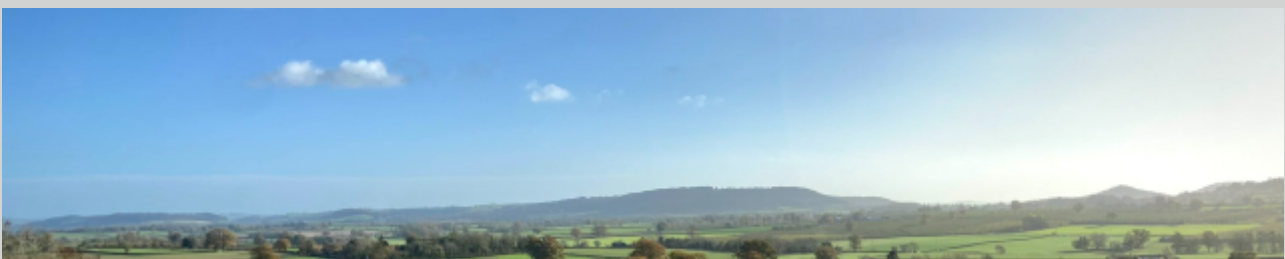
DEFRA's Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

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

Funding is available for capital works and project activity that benefit the river and our local landscape.

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.



Regulation



Environment Agency Remote Inspections - Response Reminder

If you were one of the farms that received a letter from the Environment Agency's remote inspection team last month it is important you have responded to them, especially if fields identified did have cover in place.

If you had cover on identified fields you should [email the Environment Agency here](#) with evidence (field records showing planting date, fert or spray applications, or pictures of the field near the time of inspection) to demonstrate this is the case. The breach will then be removed from your SBI. No response may result in a breach recorded against your SBI.

If however the inspection correctly identified fields that were left bare or were not yet planted, this is a timely reminder that under the Farming Rules for Water it is a requirement to take "reasonable precautions" to prevent soil erosion. Establishing green cover by 15th October is considered as a reasonable precaution. Where that does not occur land managers will be expected to justify why not.

[Click here to contact us if you have any questions about environmental regulations](#)

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)

Animal Health & Trading Standards

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

Country Land & Business Association

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

Natural England

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

Environment Agency

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

National Farmers Union

Ali Parker (Herefordshire County Adviser) Email: Ali.Parker@nfu.org.uk

Training



Forestry & Arboriculture skills training fund now available

The new funding will cover training courses in a range of areas:

- chainsaw operation
- operating heavy machinery
- planning and planting new woodland
- deer management
- marketing and selling timber
- aerial tree pruning
- branch removal
- tree surveying

To find out more and apply now, visit [Forestry and Arboriculture Training Fund](#)

Funding is available for those considering changing their careers to one in forestry or arboriculture, as well as those already working in the sector.

Applications are open now until March 2025 or until all funding has been allocated. Funding is offered on a first come, first served basis.

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.

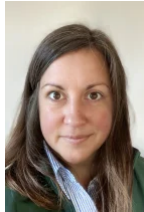
Advertisements

Static Caravans For Sale

Ideal for self build projects or temporary accommodation.

Arrow Bank Park, Eardisland, HR6 9BG

Herefordshire Hub Team



Kate Speke-Adams
Managing Director

For details about our projects & opportunities to work with us [click here](#).



Fran Keogh -
Adminstrator

For 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](#).



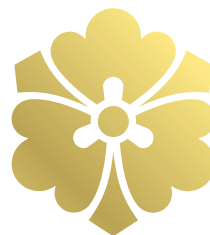
Livy Braid - Farm Resilience Project Coordinator

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



Newsletter Editor

To advertise events, services, training and job opportunities with us [click here](#). Deadline for print copy 25th of each month.



**THE ROYAL
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND**

We're proud to be part of the Royal Countryside Fund's 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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