

Herefordshire Rural Hub

Helping Rural Businesses Thrive

October 2021 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.

Advance notice and a date for your diary
Herefordshire Rural Hub are planning another

RURAL BUSINESS ADVICE DAY

Wednesday 24th November 2021

12noon till 6pm

at The Three Counties Hotel, Belmont Road, Hereford

<https://herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/whats-on/herefordshire-rural-business-advice-day-2021/>

For more information, please contact Frances on
admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

Sponsored by



BERRYS

**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 --- 7Y Training
CXCS --- Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors
Hope to Achieve --- Moule & Co
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 follow us on  [twitter@Hfds_RuralHub](https://twitter.com/Hfds_RuralHub)

and on Facebook  - search *Herefordshire Rural Hub*

DEFRA FARM RESILIENCE PROGRAMMES

The support will be offered **free of charge** to farmers and land managers by organisations known and trusted in the farming community. It will be delivered in the form of workshops supported by experts and through direct, one-to-one advice.

Any tenant or owner-occupied farm currently in receipt of BPS in England is eligible to join.

The programme runs until 28 February 2022.



Herefordshire Rural Hub are delighted to be the delivery partner for two of Defra's new Farm Resilience programmes.

If you would like to know more and require help with choosing the right programme for you, please contact Sarah Starkey on farming2020@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk or call 07974 438517

The Prince's Countryside Fund "Farm for the Future" Programme



The programme will provide business support to help you to –

- Better understand how the Agricultural Transition Plan will affect the future of your business
- Manage the upcoming changes and make informed decisions about the future of your farm.
- Explore opportunities with the ELM schemes that could financially and practically benefit your farm business.

The programme consists of **two in-person workshop events** and **one-to-one support**.

For more information visit the PCF website: www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/farmforthefuture

Welcome meeting for Farm for the Future programme in Herefordshire

Friday 15th October at Hereford Livestock Market

call in anytime between 9am – 12noon

This meeting is FREE to everyone who is interested in enrolling in the project.

We will show you how your BPS will decrease and talk you through the scheme.

Bacon rolls, tea and coffee provided throughout the morning.

For more information or to book in advance, contact Martha Rudge - email futurefarming@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk or you can just turn up on the day.

Ricardo's Programme

- **One-to-one farm resilience reviews.** A specialist business adviser from Andersons will support you in identifying the potential risks and opportunities for your business.
- **Resilience planning webinars.** These will provide background to the Agricultural Transition Plan (ATP).
- **An online skills training portal.** Subjects will include budgeting, utilising environmental features, planning for family changes, and getting accounts and paperwork in order.



Places are limited, so registration is essential.

For more information and to register your interest, please visit <http://futurefarming.eventbrite.com>

If you require help with the registration or have any questions, please contact Ricardo's Future Farming Resilience Fund project team: **01235 753530** or email FFRF@ricardo.com

DJM Consulting - FUTURE FARMING RESILIENCE FUND – FREE HELP FOR YOU

DJM Consulting, your local farm business consultants, have secured funding from Defra to deliver 1-2-1 strategic on-farm meetings this autumn and winter, under their Future Farming Resilience Fund. This is:



- Free help for you!
- Invaluable to you and your business

What is the service DJM Consulting are offering?

- Strategic on farm advice to get you through the agricultural transition period
- 1-2-1 strategic on farm visit this autumn/winter
 - Pre-visit analysis of your accounts and Basic Payment reductions
 - Farm visit
 - Production of a tailored Strategic Action Plan

What will the service do for you?

- Inform you of the changes, impacts and opportunities as a result of the Agricultural Transition Plan
- Help you to identify how you might deal with that change
- Give you tailored, meaningful advice to help you to prepare and adjust
- Encourage you to make changes where necessary

For more information and to register, please contact **Helen Newbrook** (helen@theruralbusiness.co.uk) or **Sarah McHugh** (sarah@theruralbusiness.co.uk). Tel **01746 714 089**

“What’s Behind a Pesticide Washdown and Handling Area”

Tuesday 12th October – Lower House Farm, Ashperton, HR8 2TG

(by kind permission of Mr. Bruce Gilbert)

Tuesday 26th October – Lower Cublington Farm, Hereford, HR2 9NX *(by kind permission of The Dyke Family)*

Workshop Start Times: 10am, 12pm or 2pm

Join us on farm to see a recently built pesticide wash down and handling areas, find out about grant availability in the catchment and learn more about why they are being funded, regulation, practicality and design.

We are being joined by Tim Clark an independent specialist advisor and the Environment Agency.

Please book your place through Herefordshire Rural Hub

Email: bookings@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

When booking, please give your SBI Number and contact details and which workshop time and date you would like to attend



On-farm events, meetings & webinars coming up

Where appropriate, BASIS and NRoSO points are available for attending these webinars and events and information is available on each event's page. [Farm events and agricultural shows | AHDB](#)

The next [Hereford Monitor Farm \(Cereals & Oilseeds\)](#) meeting is on 11th November, 1pm – 4pm, at Ledbury Rugby Club, HR8 2LP

In case you missed any, recordings of previous AHDB webinars can be found on the AHDB [Online events and webinar archive](#)

Dairy Show <https://www.bathandwest.com/the-dairy-show> 6th October 2021

Farm Business Innovation Show <https://www.farmbusinessshow.co.uk/> 10th – 11th November 2021

Welsh Winter Fair <https://rwas.wales/winter-fair/> 29th – 30th November 2021

Coming in Autumn 2021 [The Farming Investment Fund](#)

This is divided into 2 parts:

- **The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund**

This fund will provide smaller grants towards improving business performance. Farmers can apply for a grant to buy items from a set list of equipment, technology and small infrastructure investments. It is based on the [Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme](#).

- **The Farming Transformation Fund**

Grants awarded from this Fund will support larger or more complicated investments. It is based on the Countryside Productivity Large Grant scheme.

[Funding for Farmers in Protected Landscapes](#)

The team at the **Wye Valley AONB** would like to share information about the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, which is now open for applications.

Applications can be from farmers and landowner on land in, adjacent to or directly benefitting the landscape of the AONB.

A map of the AONB can be found [HERE](#)

The 4 main programme themes are Climate, Nature, People and Place

More detail including application guidance notes can be found at [HERE](#)

A short video introduction to the programme can also be seen [HERE](#)

If you would like to discuss project ideas or make an application, please contact Nick Critchley, Wye Valley AONB Development Officer, at development@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk or on 07904 017982.

Livestock Information Service launch

The planned launch for The Livestock Information Service for reporting sheep, goat and deer movements is now planned for the spring of 2022, retiring the current Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS)

– for more information [CLICK HERE](#)

See the latest Defra Future Farming blogs

<https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/>

DEFRA consultation on the new Plant Biosecurity Strategy

Farmers, landowners, nursery owners, keen gardeners, and environmental groups are encouraged to take part in the consultation which sets out a new vision for plant health and potential measures to strengthen the existing biosecurity regime, and protect the nation's plants from harmful pests and diseases.

The consultation closes on 30 November 2021. [Have your say HERE](#)

Some more information on the Sustainable Farming Incentive

Below are the aims of the SFI Pilot standards

Each standard has a set of aims which participants should achieve if they have followed all the actions.

These aims are the primary focus for site visits.

1. [Arable and horticultural land standard](#)
2. [Arable and horticultural soils standard](#)
3. [Farm woodland standard](#)
4. [Hedgerows standard](#)
5. [Improved grassland standard](#)
6. [Improved grassland soils standard](#)
7. [Low and no input grassland standard](#)
8. [Water body buffering standard](#)
9. [Further information](#)

Farming Rules for Water - for farmers and land managers to prevent water pollution

The Environment Agency (EA) have released a [regulatory position statement](#) (RPS) on the [Farming Rules for Water](#) which outlines when organic material can be spread on farmland.

The RPS allows farmers to apply organic manure to agricultural land that may exceed the needs of the soil or crop on that land, but must not cause a risk of pollution. It requires farmers to plan nutrient applications of organic material (livestock manures and slurries, digestate and biosolids) and manufactured fertiliser to crops, taking into account risks to water from nitrogen (N) and phosphorous (P). **The RPS applies only for spreading up to 1 March 2022 and farmers must tell the EA they are using it.**

You can download a comprehensive EA Q&A on the new rules [HERE](#)

Don't forget that if you are also in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) then you should also follow the [rules that apply to NVZs on Gov.uk](#).

Towing: new licence and age requirements

You will **not** be affected by the changes if you passed your car driving test **before** 1st January 1997.

If you passed your car driving test from 1st January 1997, you are now allowed to tow trailers, up to certain weights, without the need to pass the B+E trailer test.

The DVLA will update your driving licence record to show that you're allowed to tow trailers.

You'll get [category BE](#) added to your driving licence when you get a new photocard driving licence.

You do not need to contact DVLA for this to happen. It will be done automatically.

[Click Here](#) and use the tool to find out if you are old enough & have the right kind of licence to tow a trailer from different kinds of vehicle, and what weights you can tow. The tool assumes that you already have the minimum of a full car driving licence (category B). You also need a full car licence before being able to tow with any larger vehicle.



IT'S FREE AND FRIENDLY HELP from DJM Consulting to get you set up on the FREE Farmbench programme!*

WHAT IS IT?

- **Free, easy to use**, online tool by AHDB to help you to interpret your enterprise data:
 - Help identify **business strengths and weaknesses**
 - Anonymously **compare data** with other similar farm businesses
- Group reports and feedback/discussion breakfast groups hosted by **DJMC**

HOW WILL IT HELP YOUR BUSINESS?

- Make evidence-based **informed decisions** to:
 - **Improve business performance and profitability**
 - **Measure - change - analyse**
 - **Protect** your business against market volatility
- Create a plan to **future proof** your business

The service predominantly covering the five counties of the West Midlands has a limited budget for the 2021 harvest year – so register now to secure your place!

For further information, and to **REGISTER** please contact Helen Newbrook at DJM Consulting

01746 714089 helen@theruralbusiness.co.uk



To be eligible you must grow at least 1ha of a combinable crop in 2021 and must **not have **entered or submitted for validation**, data for harvest 2020*



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.

Improving Local 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 agriculture – which is now identified as the sector having the greatest losses Phosphate impacting on 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!

Natural Flood Management: Grants are available in the Garron, Gamber, Dore, Yazor and Wellington Catchments to help increase water retention in the landscape – examples of grant funding are; cover cropping, under-sowing maize, companion cropping, attenuation ponds and coir inputs. If you farm in any of the catchments listed and you are interested in a visit please contact one of the advisors below.

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);



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.

STEPS for Water Quality re-opened on the **22nd February 2021** and will close on the **31st January 2022**. Up to £10,000 is available to improve Pesticide Handling Facilities in the yard and for the placement of Arable Grassland Buffers to protect water courses.

STEPS can be run in conjunction with other schemes as long as an item is not being double funded.

If you would like more information about the funding Severn Trent has to offer then please contact one of the advisers below or visit <https://www.stwater.co.uk/about-us/environment/catchment-management/severn-trent-environmental-protection-scheme/>

Catchment Advisers: Abi Croshaw (07990 068941) or **Mike Williams** (07920 441215)



Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)

Free specialist CSF visits

CSF offer a number of **free specialist visits** to farmers within the high priority area for water in the Wye.

The following visits can offer support on tackling phosphate and sediment loss:

- **Soil and Nutrient Management Planning,**
- **Assessment of Soil Health,**
- **Farm Machinery Management to Improve Soil Condition and Reduce Pollution.**

In addition, the following visits can help farmers to save nitrogen and improve air quality:

- **Conserving Nitrogen Through Reducing Ammonia Emissions,**
- **Woodlands for Water and Air.**

We will be launching some new specialist visits in the future, including one on **Phosphate Management Planning**.

If you are interested in one of these or would like further information on one of them, please contact your local CSFO.

River Wye Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers

Rachel Bosanquet tel: **07770 331 669**

email: rachel.bosanquet@naturalengland.org.uk

Sue Buckingham tel: **07833 095 708**

email: sue.buckingham@naturalengland.org.uk

Ollie Cooke tel: **07884 996 938**

email: oliver.cook@naturalengland.org.uk

River Teme Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers

Sally Powell tel: **07770 645 037**

email: sally.powell@naturalengland.org.uk

James Griffiths tel: **07812 240 896**

email: james.griffiths@naturalengland.org.uk

COVID-19 Coronavirus – some useful links

Herefordshire Council

[Covid-19 Farm Preventative Packs](#)

This pack is to help support local farms with resources such as training videos, signage, and links to the relevant guidance.

[Symptom-free rapid Covid testing sites in Herefordshire](#)
[Symptom-free home testing kits](#)

Gov.UK

[Current Guidance on GOV.UK](#)

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



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 the **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 083 1986** Email: admissions@hlcollege.ac.uk

All course details are on the College website: www.hlcollege.ac.uk

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

CS30 Chainsaw Maintenance & Crosscutting 2 days + assessment	12 th – 13 th October 1 st – 2 nd December	25 th – 26 th October
CS31 Felling & Processing Trees up to 380mm 3 days + assessment	9 th – 11 th November	
CS30-31 Maintenance, Crosscutting & Felling Trees up to 380mm 5 days + assessment	10 th – 14 th January 2022	
CS38 Level 2 Tree Climbing & Aerial Rescue 5 days + assessment	25 th – 29 th October	6 th – 10 th December
CS39 Using a Chainsaw from a Rope & Harness 3 days + assessment	4 th – 6 th October	
Safe Use of Manually Fed Wood Chipper	12 th November	
PA1 Foundation - Safe Use of Pesticides 1 day including assessment	8 th December	

PA2 Ground Crop Sprayers 1 day + assessment	10 th December	
PA6 Handheld Applicators 1 day + assessment	9 th December	
Tractor Driving 13-16 year olds 2 days	25 th – 26 th October	20 th – 21 st December
Introduction to Blacksmithing (Taster days)	8 th October 4 th December	20 th November
Introduction to Blacksmithing 2 days	25 th – 26 th October	
Intermediate Blacksmithing (make a collared double candle holder) 3 days	27 th – 29 th October	13 th – 15 th December

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

Information while attending a course/event at 7Y Training Centre. 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. Before the course date - 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. Candidates Arrival on site - On arrival at the centre, we ask that the candidate stays outside until they are called in, they can then check their temperature and sanitise before entering.
3. Social Distancing - We have put social distancing measures in place distancing 2m between desks/chairs and request the same of candidates during refreshment and toilets breaks. To do this we have reduced class sizes.
4. PPMe - Each candidate will receive a welfare pack on arrival which consists of personal hand-sanitiser, gloves, tissues/wipes, face mask and a pen. These boxes (as with all course paperwork) have been quarantined for 7 days.
5. Boxes – Each desk will have a welfare box; We would like to ask that candidates put any personal belongings that they have on the desks in the box during break-times so that all hard surfaces can be wiped down.
6. First Aid Courses - We will operate a 1:1 candidate to manikin ratio for CPR practice and AED use. We maintain our rigorous manikin cleaning protocols after each course.

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>	9 th October	Leominster
C & G Ground Crop Sprayer (PA2) <i>Max 4 candidates per course</i>	T.B.C	T.B.C
C & G Ground Knapsack Sprayer (PA6) <i>Max 4 candidates per course</i>	10 th October	Leominster
First Aid at Work 3 days	20 th – 22 nd October	Leominster
First Aid at Work Refresher	Contact Paula for dates	Leominster
Emergency First Aid at Work	4 th October 29 th November	Leominster
C & G Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross-Cutting	dates available	Leominster
Fire Awareness (half day) & Manual Handling (half day)	T.B.C	Leominster

The following Machinery and Equipment courses can be run for either Novice, Refresher or Experienced candidates, & under a variety of awarding bodies – Lantra, ITSSAR, BRITTOp. Please contact Paula to register your interest.

Rough Terrain Telescopic <> Rough Terrain Telescopic over 9m <> Counterbalance FLT
ITSSAR MEWP Scissor Lift <> ATV's Sit-Astride Quad Bikes <> 360 Excavator (below 5 tonnes)

Wyvern Training Services Ltd

Agriculture | Horticulture | Arboriculture

Offering a comprehensive range of courses and qualifications

Don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to tailor a course or programme.

Phone: 01432 805266 Email: info@wyverntraining.co.uk Website: www.wyvernts-ltd.co.uk

Action Fraud

If you receive a suspicious text message, you can report it for free by forwarding the message to 7726
Suspicious telephone or mobile calls can be reported to [Action Fraud](#) via their website

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 (AHPA)** 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

Could you or someone you know benefit from support:-

- **Farming Community Network** 03000 111 999 website: <http://www.fcn.org.uk/>
- **"Farming Help"** (support for farmers affected by covid-19) 03000 111 999 website <http://www.farminghelp.co.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
- **ParkinsonsUK Hereford & District Branch** 01432 850330 website: www.herefordparkinsons.org.uk

Copy deadline for the next newsletter is 15th October

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Frances at Herefordshire Rural Hub

Email: admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk