

Herefordshire Rural Hub CIC

Agriculture House
Beech Business Park
Tillington Road
Hereford, HR4 9QJ

Tel: **01432 268 428**

Co-ordinator

hub@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

Administrator

Frances Keogh

admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

Event bookings

Tel: **01432 353 465**

bookings@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

Hub Directors

Liz Lloyd (Chair)
Chris England
Charlotte Gibb
Christine Hope
Cathy Meredith
Kate Speke

Hub Hot Group

The Directors and

Jenny Beard
Ben Corbett
Paul Crumpton
Catherine Every
Clare Greener
Rachel Jones
Frances Keogh
Andy Offer
Julian Partridge
Nick Read

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.*

Dementia Matters Here (fordshire)



Dementia Matters Here (DMH) is a

Herefordshire-wide independent charity that supports people who are worried about their or a loved one's memory, or who already may have memory difficulties, their carers and families across Herefordshire. We are a small friendly local team experienced in offering support, information, advice and can signpost to other organisations to access their support.

We deliver a number of services across the county that are free of charge. We offer the following:

- One to One Support – offering an initial assessment of support needs, monthly follow up calls, advice, and signposting.
- Telephone Support Line – Open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Enabling people to ask for support or advice from qualified friendly advisers whenever they need it.
- Carer's Groups – either online every other Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm or face to face once a month currently in Leominster.
- Memory Café – currently in Leominster once a month but expanding to include Bromyard and Ledbury in the New Year. This is an opportunity for both the person with memory difficulties and their carer to come along together for coffee, cake and a catch up with the team – whilst making new friends with other like-minded people. Activities such as flower arranging, crafts, quizzes, games and reminiscing about times gone by, will run alongside a carer's support group.
- Fortnightly newsletter full of information, recipes, quizzes and interesting history and facts.

Please call us on 01432 804 480

if you would like any further information or to talk to us.

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

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*

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Three Counties Hotel on 24th November, to the Rural Business Advice Day – we hope you found the event useful.

The raffle for the Herefordshire Hamper was won by Richard & Mandy Sidgewick

Annie Jay won the Hub Survey Prize Draw

Avian influenza

The new housing measures, which came into force on Monday 29th November, mean that it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers across the UK to keep their birds indoors and to follow strict biosecurity measures, in order to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease. **England – Click [Here](#) Wales - Click [Here](#)**

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 March 2022.

There are a number of organisations delivering these programmes across England – some more are detailed below.

What is the Future Farming Resilience Fund (FFRF) and how will it help me?

Berrys has been awarded a contract from Defra to provide support to farmers and land managers during the Agricultural Transition Period as the UK leaves the EU. The support will be available free of charge (funded by Defra), from August this year through to March 2022 and any farmer or land manager currently in receipt of BPS is eligible to apply.

It is vital during the seven-year transition period, at the end of which, BPS payments will cease to exist, that farmers and landowners take stock of their businesses and understand the implications that not having these support payments will have. This tailored support will help businesses become more resilient and competitive, make the most of their assets and ensure they will continue to operate profitably well into the future. As part of this, Berrys is providing an on-farm visit to gain all of the information needed and will then produce a comprehensive report.

This report will reflect on the current performance of the business, identifying its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, before making recommendations for the future. This will not be limited to the replacement of lost income with other grants and subsidies but will also include other objectives which will lead to business longevity including landlord and tenant matters, succession, diversification and wider business strategy. Following the delivery of the report, Berrys will then undertake one or more follow-up visits in order to discuss its contents and encourage follow-up action, in order to help decision-making and facilitating lasting change as necessary.

Due to the cap on the Future Farming Resilience Fund, we are encouraging farmers and landowners to get in touch now to secure their place.

Please contact Vicky Price to register on 01432 809834 or email vicky.price@berrys.uk.com

The Landworkers Alliance, Pasture Fed Livestock Association, and The Organic Research Centre are working together to offer free advice and support for farmers in England seeking guidance through the transition to Environmental Land Management Schemes and towards a sustainable farming future, through the DEFRA Future Farm Resilience Fund.

<https://landworkersalliance.org.uk/your-farming-future>

Environment Agency update on their work in Herefordshire

The Environment Agency has two new initiatives for Herefordshire: Project Tara and a new team of Agricultural Officers. This is in addition to the continuing work of Environment Officers (based in the Land and Water team).

Project Tara focuses on the dairy sector and anaerobic digestion sites in Herefordshire. The Environment Agency has been awarded funding to undertake an additional 60 inspections. We will target visits based on incidents and priority areas. All permitted anaerobic digestion sites in Herefordshire will receive a visit and in the Lugg catchment dairy farms will be

visited. There will also be a study carried out into the production and use of poultry litter in Herefordshire as part of this project.

As part of a new project covering England the Environment Agency has recruited 50 Agriculture Regulatory Inspection Officers. These officers will focus on Natura 2000 Protected Sites, including the Wye catchment in Herefordshire where 4 officers will be based. The officers will undertake catchment-based farm inspections and will focus on agriculture regulation. This will include SSAFO, NVZs and Farming Rules for Water. Visits for this project will commence in January 2022.

The Environment Agency can be contacted on 03708 506 506 for general enquiries.

The Environment Incident Hotline (24 hours) is 0800 807060.



Tree & Woodland Planting Event

Tuesday 7th December, Start Time 10:30am

At Ufton Grange, Holme Lacy, HR2 6PH (by kind permission of Mr. Jon Goodwin)

Join WUF to see and discuss opportunities for planting trees on your farm including details of the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO).

We will see newly planted trees, discuss how to choose the species to suit, what capital payments are available through the EWCO scheme including priority area payments and what help is available to start an application.

Light refreshments will be available before and after the event.

Please book your place through Herefordshire Rural Hub

Email: bookings@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk or telephone **01432 353465**

When booking, please give your SBI Number and contact details



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](#)

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

[Farming Investment Fund](#) open for applications.

Farmers, foresters and growers from across England are urged to apply for grants to buy new equipment and infrastructure to help to improve efficiency and help us build back greener. This could include solar powered electric fences, water treatment systems that use ultraviolet light rather than chemicals and cameras for monitoring livestock.

The fund will be split across two strands.

- Firstly, the [Farming Equipment and Technology Fund](#) focuses on smaller grants for equipment from a set list including electronic seeders and chemical-free disinfection systems. **Please note the deadline for this window of applications is midday on 7th January 2022.**
- Secondly, the [Farming Transformation Fund](#) will cover more substantial technology, with the potential to transform business performance. This strand will focus initially on water management with grants available to improve water use on farms for things like crops irrigation and constructing on-farm reservoirs. **If you are applying for this you will need to complete the initial online application through the online checker before 12th January 2022.** Projects with the best fit with the priorities will then be invited to submit a full application (deadline 30th June 2022).

See the latest Defra Future Farming blogs at <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/>

Livestock Transporter Authorisations

Do you need to renew your livestock transporter authorisation? - Livestock transporter authorisations are valid for 5 years. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is reminding all animal transporters to check the expiry date of their current transporter authorisation (for journeys over 65km) and apply for renewal.

More information & renew your authorisation [here on Gov.uk](#).

Changes to rebated fuels (Red Diesel) entitlement from 1st April 2022

You will be able to continue to use red diesel in vehicles and machines used for [accepted purposes](#) if you're in any of the following sectors: Agriculture; Horticulture; Fish farming; Forestry. If you use red diesel in diversified, non-agricultural activities you may be impacted by these changes.

For full details of who can use red diesel and for what purposes, click [Here](#)

Remember to submit your annual sheep and goat inventory in England

If you keep sheep or goats, you must carry out an annual count of the animals on your holding as of 1st December, enter this into your holding register, complete the inventory form, and submit it online or by post by 31st December.

Online form and guidance [HERE](#)

Driving with trailers

- In September the government announced a package of measures to streamline the HGV test process and changes to car/trailer licence requirements. The move was designed to free up driving examiner time to help tackle the backlog of HGV driver tests.
- One measure announced was the ending of the requirement that car drivers must take a practical test to get a B+E driving licence entitlement to drive heavier weight trailers over 750kg. However, whilst trailer tests ended on 20th September, the laws on driving a car with a trailer and the requirement for drivers to have a B+E entitlement have not yet changed, and it is not known yet when the law will be amended.
- Until the law is **actually changed**, all the current rules remain in place, with the legal requirement for car drivers who first passed their car test after 1st January 1997 to have passed a B+E practical test to drive trailers **over 750kg** in certain circumstances.

Consultation on proposals to reform the AHDB

AHDB levy payers are invited to share their views in a Defra consultation on the future of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). The consultation runs until midnight on 10th January 2022 and members can respond to the [Consultation on the AHDB website](#).

Wales – Consultation on proposed livestock movement changes

The consultation, which runs until 2nd January, relates to processes for sheep, goats, cattle and pigs together with the proposed implementation of Bovine Electronic Identification (Bovine EID). The changes that the Welsh Government aims to implement would see mandatory whole movement reporting, and journey information for all livestock which will help the farming industry to improve farm management and support disease control. **For more information** [CLICK HERE](#)



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.**

Woodland Creation Support

We are able to offer advice and support for any landowners within the Wye Catchment wanting to do woodland creation through the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO). The EWCO is a Government funded grant to plant woodland for the purposes of Water Quality, Flood Prevention, Riparian Buffers, Priority Habitat Creation and SSSI Protection from Ammonia. A minimum of 1ha needs to be applied for with a minimum of 0.1ha blocks. Standard costs for trees, tree guards, fencing and gates etc. are available, as well as a Maintenance Grant of £200 per ha for 10 years.

We are hoping to host some events over the winter explain in more detail what is on offer and what is involved.

If this is something you are interested in then please contact one of the advisers below for more information.

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, disposal options like biofilters or alternative management there may be funding available to support this.

STEPS for Water Quality is open 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.

There are also options available for grassland farms such as Alternative Weed Management and Precision Application Technology for grassland. *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 Wye catchment.

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 reduce Pollution

- 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, please contact your local CSFO

River Wye Email CSF.Severn@naturalengland.org.uk Please mention "River Wye" in the subject heading

River Teme Email CSF.Severn@naturalengland.org.uk Please mention "River Teme" in the subject heading

Herefordshire Council – [working in partnership for a zero-carbon, nature-rich county](#)

A new Climate and Nature Partnership Board is leading the way and coordinating action across the county to tackle climate change, with the vision of a zero-carbon nature-rich Herefordshire by 2030. A number of Climate and Nature Action Plans have already been created over the past year. These pull together six key areas where changes, large and small, will make a difference to climate change:

- Housing and buildings
- Energy
- Transport
- Food
- Land use and farming
- Waste

The Climate and Nature Partnership Board will coordinate how these changes are implemented across the county. This will include encouraging everyone living and working in Herefordshire to make a pledge to take action themselves to reduce their carbon footprint.

If you are looking for ideas for how you can help protect the environment and help preserve our wonderful county, or would like to make your own pledge, visit: <https://zerocarbon.herefordshire.gov.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](#)

Government guidance regarding the new Omicron variant.

Anyone who is identified as a contact of someone who is a suspected Omicron case or who has tested positive with the Omicron variant must self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of age, vaccination status or symptoms. **Isolation for close contacts of omicron COVID-19 cases** Close contacts of suspected or confirmed cases of Omicron variant will be required to self-isolate for 10 days even if vaccinated or under 18 years. If you are informed by NHS test and trace that you need to isolate and are not exempt, you *must* self-isolate.

Booking a Coronavirus vaccination/booster online.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>



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

PA1 Foundation - Safe Use of Pesticides 1 day including assessment	16 th March	
PA2 Ground Crop Sprayers 1 day + assessment	17 th March	Assessment t.b.c
PA6 Handheld Applicators 1 day + assessment	18 th March	Assessment t.b.c.
Safe Use of Brush Cutters & Strimmers 2 days including assessment	10 th – 11 th March	
CS30 Chainsaw Maintenance & Crosscutting 2 days + assessment	26 th – 27 th January	23 rd – 24 th February
CS31 Felling & Processing Trees up to 380mm 3 days + assessment	2 nd – 4 th February 2 nd – 4 th March	16 th – 18 th February 30 th March – 1 st April
CS38 Accessing a Tree Using Rope & Harness 5 days + assessment	24 th h- 28 th January	21 st – 25 th February
CS39 Aerial Cutting of Trees Using Free Fall Techniques 3 days + assess	9 th – 11 th February	23 rd – 25 th March

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

7Y Training Services

7Y Training Centre, Wharton Farms, Wharton, Leominster, HR6 0NX
Contact: Paula Strangwood Email: paula@7ytraining.co.uk

Guidance Coronavirus (COVID-19):

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. PPMe - Each candidate will receive a welfare pack on arrival which consists of personal hand-sanitiser, tissues/wipes, face mask and a pen.
3. 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>	14 th December 18 th January	Leominster
C & G Ground Crop Sprayer (PA2) <i>Max 4 candidates per course</i>	22 nd December 20 th January	T.B.C
C & G Ground Knapsack Sprayer (PA6) <i>Max 4 candidates per course</i>	15 th December 19 th January	Leominster
First Aid at Work 3 days	16 th – 18 th February 25 th – 27 th May	Leominster
First Aid at Work Refresher 2 days	22 nd – 23 rd March	Leominster
Emergency First Aid at Work	18 th January 7 th February	Leominster
C & G Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross-Cutting	dates available	Leominster
Fire Awareness (half day) & Manual Handling (half day)	19 th January 2022	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 contract 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)

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
- **We are Farming Minds** 07506 567500 Email Wearefarmingminds@gmail.com 24-hour helpline: 0808 8020070
- **Dementia Matters Here (fordshire)** 01432 804480

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*