



Helping Rural Businesses Thrive

Herefordshire Rural Hub Newsletter

Welcome to our "new look" newsletter. We hope you will find it easy to use when accessing links and information. Layout and display will continue to evolve over the next few months, so please bear with us.

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Some thoughts from Liz Lloyd, Herefordshire Rural Hub Chair

Adapting to an ever-changing environment caused by weather aka Climate Change, war, disease and pestilence has always been a necessary and invigorating aspect of farming practice. Now we appear to be at a time of conflicting priorities coming from circumstances apparently beyond control and requiring urgent and imaginative responses. These challenges include but are not exclusively listed as the nation's food security, fuel costs and the removal of BPS. This combined with a government intent on changing land use from food production to woodland and rewilding with its reforestation and environmental land management schemes could lead to a potentially dangerous dependence on food imports. Despite all this, farmers and other country businesses are creating new and refashioning old ways of working to accommodate and adapt to change - reinventing and recycling is not new to an industry that has always had to be at the forefront of change and development. No doubt Oxfordshire farmers will find a way of coping with a proposal to serve only plant based menus at Council events -

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/plant-based-food-decision-set-to-be-made-by-cabinet-on-15-march/>

For Herefordshire, help is at hand. Take a look at the many opportunities for tackling the new and still evolving scenario available through Herefordshire Hub.

Too good not to share!

A couple of useful tips from the Faster Farmers workshop "Managing your Digital Farm Office" in March.

- If you are buying or booking something online, you may have noticed that between searching and actually buying or booking, the price can sometimes go up. Therefore, it is a good idea to search/browse on one device (computer/laptop/phone), but actually "buy" on another device.
- You can check if your email address or phone number has been part of a data breach by clicking on <https://haveibeenpwned.com/> Enter your email address or phone number in the white box and click on "pwned?"

Basic Payment Scheme 2022

Key dates

- **16 May** – last day to submit a BPS application without penalty. This is also the deadline to transfer BPS entitlements for 2022.
- **10 June** – last day to submit a late BPS application, with penalty. This is also the deadline for making certain changes without penalty to a BPS application that was submitted by 16 May.

- Transfer land parcels and BPS entitlements - You can transfer land parcels and BPS entitlements for 2022 **until 16 May**, using the Rural Payments service. You can also add land by email

[Basic Payment Scheme Rules and Guidance on Gov.UK](#)

Countryside Stewardship

Key dates

- **29 April** – last day to submit a Higher Tier application.
- **27 May** – last day to request a paper application pack for Mid Tier or Wildlife Offers. There's no need to request an application pack if you're applying online.
- **29 July** – last day to apply for Mid Tier or Wildlife Offers.
- **16 May** - deadline for **existing Environmental Stewardship** agreement holders to submit their **annual revenue claim** without penalty. You can continue to submit claims after 16 May until midnight on 10 June, but with penalties.

You can claim for Capital Works under HLS throughout the year, when you complete work, as specified in your agreement.

[Countryside Stewardship Guidance on Gov.UK](#)

[Countryside Stewardship table of payment rate changes](#)

[How to make a capital or revenue claim for Countryside Stewardship](#)

Countryside Stewardship online information events

Applications for Countryside Stewardship (CS) Mid-Tier including Wildlife Offers are now open and close on 29 July 2022. **Chris Seabridge & Associates**, on behalf of Natural England, one-to-one advice sessions to offer more detailed advice about your farm's application.

- **One-to-one advice Sessions** [Click here to book online](#)

Lump Sum Exit Scheme

DEFRA expect to open the Lump Sum Exit Scheme for applications from April until the end of September 2022. You can [read about the scheme](#) on GOV.UK. DEFRA will issue further guidance when the scheme is opened.

Sustainable Farming Incentive Guidance [on Gov.UK](#)

Covering:-

- Summary of Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) in 2022

- Get ready to apply for an SFI standards agreement
- Eligibility for an SFI standards agreement
- SFI standards - agreements and payments
- SFI standards
- SFI annual health and welfare review

Delay to changes for Reducing Ammonia emissions from Urea Fertilisers

The proposed alternative approach to the use of [urea fertiliser](#) will be delivered through the Red Tractor farm assurance scheme and FACTS advisers **from 2023**, delaying the planned changes by at least a year to help farmers manage costs and give more time to adapt to pressures on the supply of ammonium nitrate fertilisers.

Ricardo Energy and Environment [“Survey on practices to reduce ammonia emissions”](#)

If you are a farmer, land manager or contractor who uses slurry or manure, you are invited to take part in this survey which explores the benefits and challenges to farmers of adopting practices that reduce ammonia emissions on farms.

The survey is anonymous, and you are not required to provide any identifying information unless you choose to do so.

The findings from this survey will provide information for a wider project undertaken by the National Institute for Health Research Public Health Research (PHR) programme researching the impacts of ammonia on human health and the environment.

New RPA podcast

The RPA has recently launched the first in a [new podcast](#) series which will offer support and guidance to farmers, landowners and rural communities navigating agricultural transition. Listen on [Apple](#) and [Spotify](#), or through [Buzzsprout](#).

If you would like RPA to cover a particular topic with their subject experts, please email External.Affairs@rpa.gov.uk

"Put Down Roots" Campaign - Woodland Creation

Woodland creation offers a profitable way for farmers and landowners to boost their business as well as deliver environmental benefits, alongside food production. The Forestry Commission and Defra are drawing attention to the attractive grant schemes and free specialist advice available through a

recently launched campaign. To understand how you can get involved, visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or email putdownroots@defra.gov.uk

NVZ records reminder - these need to be done by 30th April

Livestock manure nitrogen farm limit

You must complete a calculation to show you have kept within the livestock manure nitrogen (N) farm limit for the previous calendar year by 30 April.

These standard values can be found in the '[blank field records and standard values tables](#)' spreadsheet.

Livestock records

You must record, also, the following information for the previous calendar year by 30 April:

- the area of your holding in hectares.
- the number and type of livestock kept on your farm during the previous year, with the number of days each animal spent on the holding.
- a calculation of the amount of nitrogen produced by these animals and volume of manure produced during the storage period. The storage period for pigs and poultry is from 1 October to 1 April (inclusive) and for cattle, sheep, goats, deer and horses, it is from 1 October to 1 March (inclusive)
- any imports/exports of livestock manure.
- a copy of your sampling and analysis of manures and/or output from software (for example, ENCASH).
- the dates and locations of any field sites used for storing manure.

Grassland management

By 30 April, you must have records on how any grassland was managed (cut or grazed) in the previous calendar year.

The Farming Advice Service "[NVZs Back To Basics](#)" is a useful overview of NVZ requirements.

Public Rights of Way (PROWs)

If you own or occupy agricultural land with a PROW, please remember there are several rules you need to be aware of. Full [guidance is available on GOV.UK](#). See also the recently updated [advice for land managers on the Countryside Code](#) with information on how to help visitors to PROWs behave appropriately.

[What makes Red Tractor certified British Food & Drink Safe?](#)

Hereford City Branch

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Regenerative Farm Project at Knepp Rewilding Estate

An online talk by Russ Carrington

Tuesday 5th April 2022, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Many of you will have heard of the Knepp Rewilding Project. Now you have a chance to hear first-hand about the Knepp Regenerative Farming Project in a City Branch talk by the head of the project - Herefordshire-born, Russ Carrington.

For more information and to book, click [HERE](#)

"Public Access to Private Land"

A Farmers Weekly Webinar

Thursday 21st April 5pm - 6:15pm

Have you considered allowing public access to your land?

Given the direction of policy change, there are clear opportunities for farmers to reap financial rewards from public access. Public access can be provided by a landowner as a community benefit or it can be granted under a scheme such as Countryside Stewardship.

The panel will be answering questions such as:-

- Is the premium payment for providing public access under the England Woodland Creation Offer a taste of things to come?
- With the promise of future payments through ELMS is allowing public access something farmers are planning to do?
- Could public access bring with it a surge in rural crime and fly tipping?
- Would farmers need to increase their public liability insurance rates if they allow access?
- What is the farmer's legal responsibility when allowing public access to their land?

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**There are places available on another farm walk
with Ben Taylor-Davies**

Ben is an innovative farmer/agronomist near Ross, and is working in partnership with the Environment Agency to offer farm walks to see the work he is doing and provide an opportunity for lively discussion on the topics of soil health, accessing phosphorous reserves and the benefits this can have on water quality.

Monday 25th April, 10am - 2.30pm

At Townsend Farm, Brampton Abbots, Ross-on-Wye, HR9

Lunch will be provided

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

THE CART SHED Spring Plant Fair

27th April 2022, 10.30am - 4.00pm

Broxwood Court, nr Pembridge, Herefordshire, HR6 9JJ

Entrance £6.00

<https://www.thecartshed.co.uk/events-2>

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Ice Age Ponds Project

Farmers, Landowners, Farm Advisors - your views are needed.

Thursday 28th April - at [Moccas Village Hall](#). 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Presentation at 2pm about Ice Age Ponds, and some of the work the Ice Age Ponds Project has been doing

**Followed at 4pm by a Guided walk to see some examples
of Ice Age Ponds at Moccas Park NNR.**

Refreshments available before and after the presentation.

- Do you have an Ice Age Pond on your land and would you like to see it restored?
- What would encourage you to restore your pond/s eg funding? Advice? Management Plans?

To book for this FREE event [CLICK HERE](#)

For more information email d.hutton@herefordshirewt.co.uk

[Dairy Tech UK](#) Stoneleigh Park, 7th April 2022

[Countrytastic 2022](#) Three Counties Showground, 14th April

LEAF Open Farm Sunday 2022, Sunday 12th June

- For the “Open your Farm” information pack [CLICK HERE](#)

[Royal Three Counties Show 2022](#) Malvern Showground, 17th - 19th June



The
Wye & Usk
Foundation



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 £300 per ha for 10 years.

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](tel:07824904877); **Tom Jolley** [07545 253 155](tel:07545253155);

Jonny Pugh [07825 743 447](tel:07825743447); **Abi Croshaw** [07990 068 941](tel:07990068941);

Claire Spicer [07741 856 770](tel:07741856770); **Ben Nott** [07539 902 680](tel:07539902680)

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 will re-open on the 1st of April 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 [CLICK HERE](#)

Catchment Advisers:

- **Abi Croshaw (Wye)** [07990 068941](tel:07990068941)
- **Claire Spicer (Lugg)** [07741 856770](tel:07741856770)
- **Ben Nott (Frome)** [07539 902680](tel:07539902680)



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

SAVE THE DATE

The webinar "**Profiting from trees on poultry ranges: a farmers experience**" will be held at **7:30 pm on 24th May** and the farmer speaker is David Brass, Lakes Free Range Egg Company.

More details, including booking, will be made available shortly.

[AHDB Online Events and Webinar Archive](#)

AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Online events coming up

[Managing arable rotations for profitable & environmental objectives](#) -

6th April

[Spring Grain Market Outlook - A high price, high cost climate](#) - **26th**

April

IPM Decisions workshops - [28th April](#) & [4th May](#)

British Farming Awards 2022

Celebrating the innovative, determined and extraordinary farmers across all sectors, The [British Farming Awards 2022](#) are now open for entries and nominations! It is time to showcase the diversity and resilience of the UK's farming community, no matter the size or scale of farm businesses.

There is a new list of [awards categories](#)

Entries close on 24th June 2022

To enter yourself or nominate someone else [CLICK HERE](#)

Nuffield Farming Scholarships

The applications are now open and will close on the 31st July 2022.

Applications are welcomed from those working across the farming, food, horticulture, rural or associated industries. With around 20 Scholarships awarded each year, successful applicants are provided a substantial bursary to fund travel to study their chosen topic. Additional funding is also available for Scholars to attend the Contemporary Scholar's Conference, training sessions and other events. You do not need formal qualifications to apply.

To apply you need to be between 22 and 45 years of age.

To find out more information please visit the website

www.nuffieldscholar.org

or contact Charlotte Merson - charlotte@nuffieldscholar.org

[The Cultivate Programme](#)

A fully funded business support programme which will run virtually over a ten week period, **starting on Weds 4th May**.

With half day sessions as well as tailored mentoring support, it provides a structured and fast paced step up for businesses wishing to take their products, processes and services to the next level.

This programme focuses on supporting **agri-tech** and **agri-food** companies who are ready to take the next step in their business journey, by helping them focus on where they started, where they are now and where they want to be.

It is open to businesses throughout the UK and is delivered by Harper Adams University, supported by Barclays Eagle Labs.

Some of the core sessions include finance, access to funding, upscaling production, sustainability and routes to market.

National Minimum Wage Rates from April 2022

Aged 23 and over (National Living Wage) **£9.50** per hour

Aged 21 - 22 **£9.18**

Aged 18 - 20 **£6.83**

Aged 16 - 17 **£4.81**

Apprentice **£4.81**

Apprentices are entitled to the **Apprentice rate** if they are either:

- Aged under 19 yrs.
- Aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship.

Apprentices are entitled to the **Minimum wage for their age** if they both: -

- Are aged 19 or over.
- Have completed the first year of their apprenticeship.

The Prince's Countryside Fund / HFYFC Training grants

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 Herefordshire Young Farmers, or a past member who is under 40 years 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

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 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.

Funding will support -

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

And is also available for farm-related training including -

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

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

Email: administrator@herefordshirecf.org Phone: [01432 272550](tel:01432 272550)

7Y Training Services

7Y Training Centre, Wharton Farms, Wharton, Leominster, HR6 0NX

Contact Paula Strangwood Email paula@7Ytraining.co.uk

Most courses will take place at Wharton, Leominster

<u>Course</u>	<u>Date</u>
C & G PA1 Safe Use of Pesticides	19th May

C & G PA6 Knapsack Sprayer	20th May
C & G CS30 Chainsaw Maint & Crosscutting	13th - 14th April
Emergency First Aid at Work (1 day)	20th April 31st May 23rd June
First Aid at Work refresher (2 days)	10th - 11th May 17th - 18th May 21st - 22nd June
First Aid at Work (3 days)	6th - 8th April 25th - 27th May 24th - 26th August
Rough Terrain Telescopic Rough Terrain Telescopic over 9m Counterbalance FLT ATVs sit- astride Quad Bikes ITSSAR MEWP - Scissor lift 360 Excavator (below 5 tonnes)	Machinery courses can be run for either Novice, Experienced or Refresher candidates, under a variety of awarding bodies - Lantra, ITSSAR, MEWP, RTITB

Herefordshire & Ludlow College

For more details or to book a place contact **Jo Baker** at Holme Lacy Campus

Email j.baker@hlnc.ac.uk Tel [01432 870035](tel:01432 870035)

Details of these and other courses are on the college website at www.hlcollege.ac.uk

<u>Course</u>	<u>Date</u>
CS31 Felling & Processing Trees up to 380mm (3 days)	18th - 20th May, plus assessment
CS38 Accessing a Tree Using Rope and Harness (5 days)	9th - 13th May, plus assessment
CS39 Aerial Cutting of Trees Using Free Fall Techniques (3 days)	15th - 17th June, plus assessment
Safe Use of Brush Cutters & Strimmers (1 day)	6th May
PA1 Safe Use of Pesticides, Foundation module (1 day)	27th April, including assessment 8th June, including assessment
PA2 Ground Crop Sprayers (1 day)	29th April, plus assessment 10th June, plus assessment
PA6 Handheld Applicators (1 day)	28th April, plus assessment 9th June, plus assessment
Safe Use of Chainsaw from MEWP (2 days)	20th - 21st April, plus assessment 4th - 5th May, plus assessment
Tractor Driving for Adults (2 days) Tractor Driving for 13 - 16 yr olds (2 days)	7th - 8th May 30th - 31st May

Are you unsure about details of rules or regulations?

Need help with understanding record keeping?

- The Rural Services Helpline [03000 200 301](tel:03000200301) 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](tel:03000601115) enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
- **Environment Agency** Sharon Chisholm (Mon, Tues, Weds) Tel: [02030 251692](tel:02030251692)
Email: sharon.chisholm@environment-agency.gov.uk
- **C.L.A.** (Midlands) Helen Dale Tel: [01785 337010](tel:01785337010) Email: helen.dale@cla.org.uk
- **Animal Health & Trading Standards** (Herefordshire) Tim Barber Tel: [01432 383145](tel:01432383145) Fax: [01432 383169](tel:01432383169)

Could you or someone you know benefit from support?

- **Farming Community Network** [03000 111 999](tel:03000111999) website: <http://www.fcn.org.uk/>
- **“Farming Help”** (support for farmers affected by covid-19) [03000 111 999](tel:03000111999) website <http://www.farminghelp.co.uk>
- **Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)** [0800 188 4444](tel:08001884444) website: <http://www.rabi.org.uk/>
- **Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy** [07966 927404](tel:07966927404) website: www.borderchaplain.org
- **You Are Not Alone (YANA)** [0300 323 0400](tel:03003230400) website: www.yanahelp.org/
- **Farming Help** [0845 367 9990](tel:08453679990) website: www.farminghelp.org.uk/
- **Addington Fund** [01926 620 135](tel:01926620135) website: www.addingtonfund.org.uk/
- **Herefordshire Samaritans** website: www.samaritans.org/branches/herefordshire-samaritans
- **Carerstrust 4 All - Hereford CarerLinks** [01432 663057](tel:01432663057) website: www.carerstrust4all.org.uk
- **ParkinsonsUK Hereford & District Branch** [01432 850330](tel:01432850330) website: www.herefordparkinsons.org.uk
- **We are Farming Minds** [07506 567500](tel:07506567500) Email Wearefarmingminds@gmail.com
24-hour helpline: [0808 802 0070](tel:08088020070)
- **Dementia Matters Here (fordshire)** [01432 804480](tel:01432804480)
- **OK Rehab** <https://www.okrehab.org/>
Local Drug & Alcohol rehabilitation and addiction treatment.
Herefordshire rehab:-
<https://www.okrehab.org/local-areas/drug-alcohol-rehab-herefordshire/>

Please support our “Go To Businesses” who can be found on our website at

www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/go-to-businesses/

**Thorne Widgery Accountants Ltd --- Berrys --- DJM Consulting
Hope to Achieve --- 7Y Training --- CXCS --- Fisher German LLP
Davis Meade Property Consultants --- Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors**

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 Classified

PART-TIME EXPERIENCED GARDENER

Part-time experienced gardener Worcestershire/Herefordshire border to help manage and care for large Manor House gardens and woodlands 3 days a week.

Pay related to experience and references.

Candidate must be comfortable with large dogs and be experienced in all aspects of gardening.

Please apply in the first instance to Ms Lucinda Rees

Email: lucindarees@hotmail.com

Closing date for applications **8th April 2022**

Would you like to place an Advert for e.g. **Services / Job Vacancy / Items for sale / Looking for work**

Then please contact **Frances** for full details of the advertising packages on our **Classified Page**

Email admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

Copy deadline for the next newsletter is 15th April



Rural Hub Herefordshire

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.

Herefordshire Rural Hub

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