

OCTOBER 2023

NEWSLETTER

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Minette Batters: “Really tough” decision to step down from NFU

After 10 years as an NFU office holder, Minette Batters will end her presidency in February 2024.

The first female president of the NFU, Ms Batters is now in her third term, having secured 75% of the vote in the 2022 election.

She served as deputy president from 2014-2018, before being elected president in February 2018. She was previously a county chair, Wiltshire’s NFU Council delegate and also a regional board chair for the south west.

Commenting on her decision to step down as president in February 2024, she said: “The decision to step down has been really tough to make but after 10 years at the top of the organisation it is time for someone else to take the lead.

“It has been an extraordinary time for British farming. From the impact of Brexit, the Covid pandemic and most recently the cost of living crisis, which was exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, and the resulting impact of record inflation for the agriculture sector. There has not been a playbook in history for the events that have unfolded.

“I have given it my all and there’s a huge job still to be done. I remain determined to deliver what’s needed for our members.”

Ms Batters runs a tenanted family farm in Wiltshire. The mixed farming business includes a 100-cow continental cross suckler herd, as well as sheep and arable.

Campaigning on the importance of British food and farming has been a key theme of her presidency. In 2020 she led a petition, signed by over 1 million people, calling on the government to back British farmers and prioritise food standards when negotiating trade deals.

Source: www.farmersguide.co.uk 3 October 2023

FUEL NEWS: UKIFDA and OFTEC launch ‘Be Winter Wise’ campaign for heating oil users, Claas moves to sustainable HVO fuel in latest green initiative, John Deere develops ethanol engine and more...

Pages 16-19

AGRISOUTH ARABLE NEWS: Farmers set for a bumper maize crop this harvest, Consultation announced for Combinable Crops Digital Passport and more...

Pages 7-8

PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS: including - £12.5 million awarded for robotics and automation projects to boost sustainable farming & more...

Pages 23-26



LIVESTOCK POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS: 7 ways to prepare grazing herds for big rain events, Farmers urged to monitor sheep closely as worm egg counts spike & more...

Pages 11-13



HORTICULTURE NEWS: Deafening silence’ from retailers as farmer petition hits milestone, Legged robot walks into greenhouses & more...

Pages 9-10

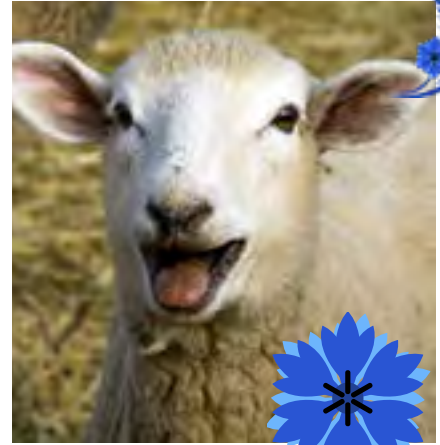
CONTENTS

- 'Disappointing': Agriculture left out of new shortage occupation list.....3
- New YFC campaign encourages farmers to recycle more waste.....3-4
- Levy increase proposals published by AHDB sector councils.....4
- DEFRA MEDIA: Guardian article on road runoff.....5
- Two Agritechnica 2023 Silver Medals for the T7 Methane Power LNG and for the T4 Electric Power tractors.....5-6
- World Egg Day: Poultry farmers gear up to celebrate the humble egg.....6
- EKPMA Thank you!.....6
- ARABLE NEWS.....7-8
- HORTICULTURE NEWS.....9-10
- LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS11-13
- FORAGE.....14-15
- FUEL NEWS.....16-19
- WORKSHOP, YARD & MAINTENANCE.....21-22
- PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS, Suppliers, hire23-26
- Machinery/Equipment List For Sale & Wanted.....27-30
- Classified Adverts.....30-31
- PLUMPTON COLLEGE Apprenticeships.32
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, GULLANDS: Family Farming Partnerships.....33
- EVENTS: The Farmers Ball 2023.....32



BLEATINGS FROM RAMSAK HQ...

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



Dear Reader

Welcome to an unseasonably warm October! However, winter and Christmas are looming on the horizon and we wanted to make sure you are ahead of the game...

Kerosene Orders

Please don't wait for the weather to turn before placing your kerosene order, whilst we can help with emergency orders wherever we can, if there is a delay our matrimonial support skills are limited! You have been advised! Get your orders over to Lucy!

Corporate Gifts

The Flamboyant Wine Company has some wonderful Christmas crackers containing English Wine that make a fantastic table offering or gift. Head over to www.theflamboyant.co.uk for info!

Snow Clearance

Please register your availability with Lucy Day by completing this year's [Snow Clearance Registration Form](#), saving the file in your name and emailing it to her at Lucy@ramsak.co.uk as soon as possible.

The Farmers Ball

This is now 75% full! If you are planning on attending, please advise Lynsey as soon as possible via Lynsey@grapevine.events. Links to information and forms are on the back page of the Newsletter.

Have a great month and, as always, we are here to help as an extension of your farm office for your winter farming and rural product and service requirements...Give us a call!

The RAMSAK Team

01622 815356 or email enquiries@ramsak.co.uk

'Disappointing': Agriculture left out of new shortage occupation list



The agriculture and horticulture industries have been left out of the latest shortage occupation list, with the NFU calling the move 'disappointing'.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has published its review into the list, which details eight occupations which it recommends are included onto it.

Occupations were identified where employers are struggling to recruit sufficiently from the domestic workforce, with migration considered an appropriate alternative.

In a blow to farmers dealing with post-Brexit labour shortages, the MAC's latest recommendations do not include any agriculture and horticulture occupations.

The NFU had surveyed 506 farmer members on their experiences with labour shortages as part of its response to the MAC.

To minimise the impact of a shortage of labour on their business, 41% of respondents who are struggling to recruit and retain workers have reduced their production levels.

The NFU said this would be of 'great detriment' to British food production.

Inclusion onto the shortage occupation list grants an occupation more favourable migration conditions, with the aim to increase the pool of applicants for a role and reduce labour shortages.

NFU deputy president, Tom Bradshaw said it was 'disappointing' that the 'evident' shortages impacting the agriculture industry haven't been recognised.

He said: "We know farmers are having difficulty recruiting long-term for vital roles in their farm businesses."

Source: www.farminguk.com, 4 October 2023

New YFC campaign encourages farmers to recycle more waste



Since 2006, waste regulations banned the burning or burying of farm waste

A new campaign has launched encouraging young farmers to recycle more of their farm waste, such as plastic and cardboard.

YFCs are being asked to partner with local recycling companies to set up a scheme that incentivises farmers to recycle more of waste.

Since 2006, waste regulations banned the burning or burying of farm waste, meaning farmers must now send waste to recycling or a landfill site.

The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC) said the scheme's aim was for young farmers to offer to remove the waste from local farms and deliver to the recycling centre in return for a donation.

Farmers could also deliver their own waste through the scheme to trigger the donation to the YFC, the organisation said today as National Young Farmers' Week gets underway.

The YFC Recycle Challenge has been inspired by an initiative between the Essex Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs and CSH Environmental – a recycling centre near Colchester.

The partnership has resulted in more than 94 tonnes of waste being recycled from farms across Essex and has raised more than £12,000 for YFCs in the county during its first year.

Oliver Weavers, who started the scheme during his year as county chair for Essex, said the recycling scheme had been a big success in our county.

"We wanted more Young Farmers' Clubs to benefit from a similar arrangement," he explained.

"This has given our members new skills, made them more aware of the importance of recycling and most importantly engaged farmers in recycling their waste more often.

"Most farmers have a connection to YFC and are willing to give back to the organisation and this is a really simple way to do it."

Inspired by the recycling scheme, the Essex Federation also produced re-useable plastic drinking cups for their county show this year, made using the recycled plastic they had delivered to CSH.

This initiative significantly reduced the amount of single-use plastic needing to be cleared the morning after the show.

Continued page 4...

NFYFC has worked with Essex to develop a toolkit for YFCs to help them set up a similar scheme in their own county, to encourage more farmers to recycle more.

The recycling scheme is one part of NFYFC's National Young Farmers' Week activities, which this year has a theme of Sustainable Futures.

The organisation has also released a report focused on sharing positive ways young farmers can overcome barriers to entry and how they can manage environmental challenges.

Source: www.farminguk.com 9 October 2023

Levy increase proposals published by AHDB sector councils

Proposals for new levy rates from the start of the 2024/25 financial year have been published 4th October by AHDB's sector councils, representing beef and lamb, cereals and oilseeds, dairy and pork.

The purpose of increasing rates is to meet the request from levy payers to deliver more key services, including marketing and exports for the beef and lamb, dairy and pork sectors and more independent research for cereals and oilseeds.

The proposals come at a time when AHDB's spending power has been greatly reduced by rising costs, which have been particularly affected by the increase in inflation.

Levy payers are being given the opportunity to ask questions about the proposals over the coming weeks, including during AHDB's Funding Your Future livestream event on Thursday, 9th November 2023.

Sector councils will make a final recommendation to the AHDB Board, which will put the proposals to government ministers and devolved administrations later this year. The proposed levy rates are as follows:

Beef and Lamb (levy rate last set in 2011) Cattle (excluding Calves)

Producer – £4.05 to £5.06/head of cattle
Slaughterer/Exporter – £1.35 to £1.69/head

Calves

Producer – £0.08 to £0.10/head of cattle
Slaughterer/Exporter – £0.08 to £0.10/head

Lamb

Producer – £0.60 to £0.75/head of sheep
Slaughterer/Exporter – £0.20 to £0.25/head of sheep

Cereals and Oilseeds (levy rate last set in 2011)

Cereal grower – 46.00p/tonne to 58p/t
Cereal buyer – 3.80p/t to 4.80p/t

Cereal processor (human/industrial) – 9.50p/t to 12p/t

Cereal processor (feed) – 4.60p/t to 5.80p/t

Oilseeds – 75 p/t to 94 p/t

Dairy (set more than 20 years ago)

Dairy farmer – 0.06p/litre to 0.08p/l

Pork (levy rate last set in 1996)

Pig producer – £0.85 to £1.02

Pig processor – £0.20 to £0.24

AHDB chair Nicholas Saphir said while there is never a right time for such proposals, with the board's spending power drastically reduced and inflation alone eroding the value of levy by around 40%, the decision could not be further delayed.

"The message from levy payers through Shape the Future was clear, that key services provided by AHDB, such as independent research, the Strategic Farm networks, activity to identify new export markets as well as domestic marketing, are seen as vital to levy payers," he said.

"The Sector Councils are right to explore the option of increasing the current rates but by taking a proportionate approach that takes into account the impact of the current economic climate on farmers, producers and processors. Therefore, I do recommend that you fully support the proposed increases."

QMS calls for levy increase to fund 'vital work'

Proposals to increase levy have also been submitted by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), the public body responsible for promoting the PGI labelled Scotch Beef and Scotch Lamb brands in the UK and abroad, as well as Scottish pork products under the Specially Selected Pork logo.

Commenting on the proposals, QMS chair Kate Rowell said: "QMS has not requested a levy increase since 2010, and we want to remain fit for the future of Scotland's iconic Scotch brands, promotional work and market development.

"With this in mind, as we announced at the Royal Highland Show, we plan to hold industry workshops throughout Scotland during November and December, to discuss the delivery of our five-year strategy and, as agreed by the QMS board, a proposed levy increase to fund this vital work."

To maintain good value for money, QMS will propose a new mechanism for setting the levy from Spring 2024, which will involve a small increase to fees each year to keep pace with inflation, Ms Rowell explained.

"This mechanism will be reviewed at the end of the five years, to ensure it remains fit for purpose," she added.

Levy payers can find out more about the details of the proposals by visiting www.ahdb.org.uk.

Source: www.farmersguide.co.uk, 4 October 2023

DEFRA MEDIA: Guardian article on road runoff

An article published in the Guardian on 6 Oct last, covering road pollution, has said there is no monitoring by regulators of thousands of outfalls and soakaways on the country's road network, and that the scale of the impact for the wildlife the public is not known.

Highways drainage and urban diffuse pollution is a serious issue causing 18 percent of failures for water bodies in England under the Water Framework Directive. They are not directly regulated by the Environment Agency but they do work with the government and partner organisations to reduce pollution from roads. Responsibility for these outfalls rests with National Highways and local authorities.

However, the suggestion of permitting tens of thousands of outfalls is flawed as it would provide little in the way of additional pollution control and would be impractical to fit water treatment to every outfall. In addition, highways owners like National Highways and Local Authorities have no control over what comes off the roads from vehicles themselves.

As such, permitting every outfall would not lead to effective controls, would be extremely costly and would waste precious resources on administration, which are otherwise being used to make a positive impact on the environment. Instead, the Environment Agency takes a collaborative approach and works with National Highways on the delivery of the current and future Road Investment Strategy's to minimise environmental impact, including putting in treatment at higher risk outfalls.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said:

"While highway outfalls are not directly regulated by the Environment Agency, we continue to work with the government and partner organisations to reduce pollution from our roads.

"This includes working closely with National Highways to influence their Road Investment Strategy to include pollution mitigating schemes on their priority list of outfalls and on joint incident response strategies to minimise the risk of pollution arising from road traffic accidents."

Source: www.farming.co.uk, 9 October 2023



- **T7 Methane Power LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) represents the next level in development of Methane Power tractor offering**
- **T4 Electric Power is the industry's first all-electric utility tractor with autonomous features**

New Holland Agriculture won three Innovation Medals at Agritechnica 2023. The brand received the only Gold Medal assigned by the commission and two Silver Medals.

The Gold Medal went to the overall concept of the new Twin Rotor combine harvester, that will be presented for the world premiere at Agritechnica in November 2023.

The two Silver Medals went to New Holland's new entries in the alternative propulsion tractors portfolio: the T7 Methane Power LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) and the T4 Electric Power. Both tractors were presented for the first time during CNH's Tech Day in December 2022 in Arizona, US.

Carlo Lambro, Brand President of New Holland Agriculture said: "These Medals are incredible achievements for New Holland and we are extremely proud of the job done by all the teams. They reward our harvesting machinery segment, an area where New Holland has a strong reputation and has excelled for years with great results. This Gold Medal comes as a confirmation of our efforts and it nurtures the excitement for the upcoming launch of the new combine.

The Silver Medals are not less important, as they both go to products that represent our commitment in sustainability and in alternative propulsion research and investment. A well-deserved award for both the T7 LNG and the T4 Electric. My congratulations go to the teams who worked hard for this result.

With its 270hp the new T7 Methane Power LNG meets the need for powerful high horsepower machines that produce lower emissions and operating costs. Autonomy capability is more than doubled thanks to the use of liquified methane and space is optimized with the stainless-steel cryogenic tank.

Just like all the most recent models in New Holland high horsepower portfolio, it features Precision Land Management solutions to boost productivity and sustainability, together with the latest innovations in term of ergonomic and design.

Continued page 6...

The New Holland T4 Electric Power tractor is the winner of the second Silver Medal for Innovation. The emission free and silent energy tractor introduces a new tractor class in the market, the Utility Electric and establishes a remarkable step towards zero emission farming.

The disruptive utility tractor represents New Holland's first step in its strategic plan for electrification and the newest addition to the brand's innovative lineup of alternative energy sources powered portfolio, such as the T7 Methane Power LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) and the T6.180 Methane Power.

Better performance than diesel with high torque and faster responses have been achieved from the lowest speeds, the T4 Electric Power offers 55kW as rated power and promotes a new level of driving experience. Smooth and gradual delivery of power at low speeds and constant delivery at high speeds enhances the operator's control and precision in applications with implements and loader.

Source: www.agrimachinerynews.com 5 October 2023

Rules for ammonium nitrate fertilisers this autumn

Farmers, growers and buying co-operatives must prepare for changes in the law which will require them to provide photo ID when purchasing ammonium nitrate (AN) fertiliser from 1 October.

To download a free informative flyer and for further details on the legal changes, [visit the AIC website HERE](#)



British poultry farmers are gearing up to celebrate the humble egg as World Egg Day commences later this week.

The annual initiative, which takes place this year on Friday 13 October, is seen as a chance for farmers to raise the profile of their sector.

This year's theme is 'eggs for a healthy future', putting a spotlight on the nutritional value that eggs have as well as their benefits towards global health and farming.

World Egg Day will also be focusing on the versatility of eggs and the different ways they can be added into diets.

Last year, the initiative was promoted globally across social media, with farmers and the public getting involved with the campaign.

Eggs are amongst the most nutritious foodstuffs available, with one large egg providing thirteen essential vitamins and minerals.

These include vitamin A for eye health, vitamin D for bone health, and choline for brain development; along with high-quality protein.

The NFU's Poultry Board is encouraging producers to get involved and to showcase the "best of British poultry production".

Since 1996, World Egg Day has been celebrated every year on the second Friday in October.

Source: www.farminguk.com (edited), 9 October 2023



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EAST KENT PLOUGHING MATCH ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL PLOUGHING MATCH AND SHOW

As Chairman I write on behalf of the Committee to express how grateful we are to you for sponsoring the East Kent Ploughing Match 2023 in our 78th year. We very much hope that you enjoyed being at the event and experiencing all the different activities and competitions that take place during the day and hope that you found that it was worthwhile taking part. We are delighted with how the day went and that a record number of people attended this year despite the terrible traffic issues.

The match has now become such a great highlight of the area's agricultural calendar and we are extremely grateful to you for helping it to continue to be so. The match next year will be on 25 September 2024 at Adisham and we hope that you will be able to join us.

Yours sincerely

*Patrick Overy
Chairman*



Farmers set for a bumper maize crop this harvest, analysis shows

Crop analyses carried out by Limagrain UK indicate that most stands of maize are on track to produce a promising crop, with the majority predicted to be ready for harvest within the next week.

The pre-harvest tests, analysing dry matter; starch; non-digestible fibre; cell wall digestibility and metabolisable energy content; were carried out at a maize demonstration and testing day, hosted by Limagrain and Spunhill at Limagrain's maize variety trial site on the outskirts of Wrexham.

The event was attended by more than 40 farm businesses from across the region who not only had their own crop samples tested for free, but were also given a tour of the Limagrain variety trial where the latest forage, grain and energy crop varieties are being assessed in real-world conditions.

"The tests clearly indicated that whilst a minority of crops are already at the point of harvest, the majority are still a week or more away from being ready, with dry matter levels still a little on the low side," said Henry Louth, key account manager of Forage Crops at Limagrain UK.

"For most maize growers, the start of this year's harvest has been delayed by about a fortnight as a result of July's dull and overcast conditions which saw sunshine hours at 81% of the average for the month. Most crops have caught up well since then, with a few notable 'very early' varieties including Dignity and Gema really standing out in terms of maturity."

He added those two varieties tested especially well for dry matter, starch and ME content, and recorded outstanding results for cell wall digestibility.

"If conditions in early October are favourable, we should see most growers taking their crops before the middle of the month, which will hopefully make for a clean and easy harvest and a good quality ensiled crop," he concluded.

Source: www.farmersguide.co.uk 6 October 2023



NIAB NEWS: New approach to regulating precision bred products could unlock investment in crop genetic research and innovation

NIAB welcomes the progress made at September's Food Standards Agency (FSA) Board meeting, which paves the way for a more streamlined and evidence-based approach to regulating food and feed products developed using new precision breeding techniques such as gene editing.

As a result, England could be on course to adopt one of the most progressive and enabling regulatory systems for gene edited products in the world, opening up significant potential for increased inward investment and international research collaboration.

The proposals discussed by the FSA Board today, which are intended to be brought forward as secondary legislation under the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act, are similar to the regulatory approach adopted earlier this year by Canada, and recently proposed by the European Union, in not requiring separate risk assessment, traceability or labelling of precision bred products considered to be equivalent to their conventionally bred counterparts.

Commenting on the plans discussed at today's FSA Board meeting, NIAB chief executive Professor Mario Caccamo said:

"It is difficult to over-state the significance of these technologies for crop genetic research and innovation in this country. By adopting one of the most progressive and enabling regulatory systems for gene edited products in the world, and with such an internationally recognised research base in plant genetic science, England could genuinely be on course to become one of the best places globally to invest in agri-food research and innovation."

"NIAB is already in discussions with a number of gene editing companies and scientific partners internationally regarding

Continued...

potential research collaborations. The positive direction of travel considered at today's FSA Board meeting can only serve to strengthen those opportunities."

Professor Caccamo pointed to the advances already made in precision breeding research since simplified arrangements for experimental field trials were introduced in March 2022:

"Since new, simplified arrangements were introduced in March last year for outdoor trials of gene edited plants, nine new field trials have been notified in England, twice as many as for the whole of the EU over the same period. The focus in each case is on using new precision breeding techniques to make our farming systems more sustainable, whether in terms of reducing food waste (pod-shatter resistant oilseed rape, non-browning potatoes), reducing pesticide use (late blight resistance in potatoes), healthier eating (Omega-3 enriched camelina, tomatoes higher in provitamin B3), or safer food (low-asparagine wheat)."

"As each of these examples demonstrate, precision breeding techniques such as gene editing open up major opportunities to improve our food system through scientific innovation. It is encouraging that the Food Standards Agency are listening to the science, and recognise the enormous potential to deliver on their policy aims to make our food supply healthier, safer and more sustainable," said Professor Caccamo.

Source: www.niab.com, 1 September 2023

Consultation announced for Combinable Crops Digital Passport



Plans for a consultation with industry over the possible introduction of a Digital Passport for Combinable Crops have been confirmed for October 2023 by the project's Leadership Group.

Digitising paper passports to improve data communication through supply chains has been a topic of discussion for over a decade. As a result, a simplified version of previous proposals has been developed over the past year, and is awaiting consultation.

The work has been a collaboration between representatives from all parts of the cereals and oilseeds chain, including merchants and animal feed receivers, farmers and receivers.

The group has also received support from experts at AHDB, as well as advice from a broad range of interested parties such as hauliers, port facility operators and businesses outside the organisations represented on the Leadership Group.

The business case sets out how a Digital Passport (Combinable Crops) system would operate, replacing existing paper passports. The electronic documentation will, as now, be initiated by farmers with input from hauliers, before being transmitted to receivers.

There will be live updates of assurance status prior to the vehicle leaving farms, avoiding the risk of delay or rejection at the receiver's site.

In addition, the system will enable a multi-directional flow of data between farmers, grain merchants and end users such as millers, maltsters and feed mills. This includes a commitment to the real-time return of information to those involved in the chain.

The proposed system has been devised to ensure ease of use, as well as minimise costs and maximise accessibility. To this end, developers have explored the potential for existing software and off-the-peg systems to be adapted to the grain sector's needs, along with a more bespoke approach.

The business case will be published in early October detailing the purpose, benefits and costs. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure industry needs are addressed, highlight gaps in the system and establish the level of support for the project.

Provided the proposal is accepted, the Leadership Group would then approach the AHDB Cereals and Oilseeds Sector Council to discuss funding options. Additional funding would be sought from all available sources to keep costs as low as possible to direct passport users.

To take part in the consultation process, contact your representative at the respective trade association or get in touch with AHDB via David.Eudall@ahdb.org.uk to receive an update.

Source: www.ahdb.org.uk 1 September 2023

'Deafening silence' from retailers as farmer petition hits milestone



Guy Singh-Watson, founder of Riverford Organic, has warned that British agriculture is 'on its knees'

A survey calling on retailers to provide a fairer deal to the UK's struggling farmers has reached over 50,000 signatures, but supermarkets are yet to respond.

The petition, addressed to the CEOs of the nation's 'big six' supermarkets, has also been signed by over 100 leading figures and industry bodies.

The letter was sent to Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Morrisons, Aldi and Lidl just over two weeks ago asking them to treat farmers fairly, warning that the farming industry was 'on its knees'.

It is part of the new #GetFairAboutFarming campaign launched by organic farming firm Riverford, calling for better business practices to safeguard the future of British farming.

But sixteen days on, there has been a 'deafening silence' from the high street giants to the campaign.

It comes as half (49%) of British fruit and vegetable farmers say it's likely they will go out of business in the next 12 months.

The shocking statistic is included in new research by Riverford, with many farmers blaming supermarkets and their buyers as a leading threat to their livelihoods.

Supermarkets and their buyers are accused of not paying on time, pursuing cheaper food alternatives from overseas, and cancelling or changing orders at the last minute.

Three quarters (75%) surveyed say the behaviour of supermarkets is a leading concern within the industry.

According to the research, one in five farmers (22%) say they have suffered a wasted crop due to cancelled orders from supermarkets, 29% have also received a cancelled order from supermarkets with no explanation.

And just under a third of farmers (29%) say they have seen supermarkets failing to pay them within 30 days.

However, 70% of farmers agreed it would have a positive impact if buyers paid the amount initially agreed, and did not then slash prices after the initial agreement.

A further 64% agreed it would have a positive impact if buyers bought everything they committed to buy.

Guy Singh-Watson, founder of Riverford Organic, warned that British agriculture was 'on its knees'.

"From the backing of our open letter, it is abundantly clear that this is an urgent issue which needs to be addressed," he said.

"However, the silence from supermarkets is deafening. British agriculture is on its knees, with research showing that many farmers attribute their fear of closure to the behaviour of supermarkets.

"And yet not one of the 'Big Six' has responded to our calls for better business practices, to safeguard the future of fruit and veg farmers in this country.

"The supermarkets must act now. This marks a critical moment where we can take a stand against harmful practices, and create a better, fairer future for British food and farming. "

Riverford's new research also showed farmers are currently being squeezed from all angles, including the impact of climate change, the loss of post Brexit subsidies and rising input costs.

In the face of these pressures, 67% of growers surveyed agree that making a living through farming has never been harder and 61% fear that they won't have a farm to pass on to future generations.

And it's not just supermarkets; over half (54%) of horticultural farmers believe farming sits on the bottom of the government's list of priorities.

Current government policies in place to protect farmers from supermarket buying behaviour are inadequate and rarely enforced, says Riverford.

Fruit and veg farmers agree, with 69% saying tougher regulations are required to redress the imbalance of power between farmers and the supermarkets and their buyers.

For example, 64% of farmers surveyed said that having a commitment for the long-term would have a very significant positive impact on their business.

The public can show their support for the campaign by signing an [online petition](#).

Source: www.farminguk.com, 7 October 2023



The first carbon calculator for the horticulture sector launches

Independent horticultural consultancy ADAS is launching the first carbon accounting tool designed and developed exclusively for use by the horticultural sector. The new tool, HortZero, will allow fruit, vegetable, and ornamental growers to independently calculate the carbon footprint of their business and their produce, which can in turn be reported to retailers, their consumers, and regulatory bodies.

Unlike other carbon calculators on the market which tend to exclusively focus on 'open-field' farming, HortZero is able to calculate emissions produced from container systems and protected environments. It has been built from the ground up to accommodate infrastructure found within a typical horticulture business such as chilled storage units, packhouses, glasshouses with lighting and heating systems, and potting and filling lines.

Jill England, HortZero project lead and Head of Horticulture at ADAS explains "We have known for a while that current carbon calculators don't properly consider, nor meet, the needs of horticulture so we've been developing this HortZero tool for some time with support from De La Harpe and Co., and Suncrop."

"Simplicity is at the heart of the HortZero tool. We have worked very hard to ensure that any type of business, whether they're a large commercial nursery or small family-run enterprise, can use it and understand the data it provides. It doesn't require growers to record every little detail of their site operations, it focuses on 'total resource used' instead so it shouldn't add excessively to anyone's workload."

Jill confirmed that this is a soft launch of HortZero, and early users should bear in mind that it is still in the final stages of development.

"Hort Zero is now at the stage where we can open this up to the industry, not only so growers can begin to benefit from using it, but so we can get feedback and keep refining it. Our ultimate aim is for HortZero to be the 'go-to' carbon tool for any horticultural business working towards their sustainability goals. To get there, we want as many different types of horticulture growers as possible to start using it."

ADAS is now offering early access to HortZero for any interested growers. To find out more and register interest, please visit www.adas.co.uk/hortzero. Growers will be invited to fill in a short questionnaire to help HortZero's developers understand how the tool will be used.

Source: www.hortnews.com, 26 September 2023



A four-legged robot is among the developments being worked on for growers by a team of engineers and crop scientists at Warwick University.

Warwick Manufacturing Group (WVG) is collaborating with horticultural crop specialists at Warwick Crop Centre, Wellesbourne (now known as the Innovation Campus, Stratford upon Avon). Alongside finding ways to use 'Spot', an autonomous four-legged robot supplied by technology company Boston Dynamics, the team has created its own wheeled crop monitoring robot, Crombot.

Crombot is an autonomous machine with a camera mounted on a robot arm, designed to continuously and repetitively monitor crops for pests, diseases and other stresses, or fruit ripeness. It has proven capable of safely navigating around a greenhouse but also able to follow an individual on command.

Spot is already commercially available, with more than 1,000 in use by various industries. The Warwick team is focusing on the machine's ability to pick its way around and over obstacles – such as greenhouse heating pipes – or in muddy fields outdoors.

WVG principal engineer Alex Keller said: "The Spot robot could be ideal for agricultural monitoring, but is currently very expensive. Further research is needed to understand if it could progress to challenges such as harvesting and more.

"This is why we are continuing to develop our in-house robotic capabilities, so we can help industry to create robotic solutions that are affordable and realistic for growers."

He added: "Currently, we can detect and count tomatoes, for example. Adding additional AI capabilities such as determining whether fruit is ready for picking is relatively easy to implement, as long as readiness can be distinguished by a strong visual feature, such as the colour."

Source: www.hortnews.com, 26 September 2023



LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS

7 ways to prepare grazing herds for big rain events



Although changing weather patterns seem to bring rainfall in sudden, torrential downpours and flooding has become normal for many farms, planning can reduce the impact of big weather events.

Farmers Weekly asked LIC consultant Sean Chubb for some tips on how dairy farmers can prepare.

1. Plan and monitor

There is no foolproof way of getting accurate weather data. However, a weather station will give you information about rainfall, soil temperature and moisture for your farm to make more timely decisions.

For instance, once your soil moisture starts creeping up, you can get the team ready to implement your mitigation strategies.

Think about the rotation leading up to these times of year. Avoid grazing flooded paddocks first in spring.

Break up the farm into wet and dry paddocks, then graze dry paddocks before the end of October to allow them to recover for February turnout.

2. Grazing

Graze "as wet as you dare", but grazing higher covers in wet conditions causes less damage as pasture can handle the water load. And don't push for low residuals.

Set break fences up to graze squares, not rectangles. This disperses cows out and minimises poaching.

In a long rectangle, cows keep overtaking each other up to the fence and back because the grazing instinct of the herd animal is movement.

Start on/off grazing when paddocks are at field capacity, to avoid damage caused by excess water in the soil.

Suddenly switching to on/off grazing will see production drop for a couple of days.

To avoid this, transition cows to it over three days (where they graze non-stop for eight hours, then are pulled off to ruminate).

If offering buffer feed, turn cows out with an edge to appetite and pull them inside to eat buffer.

Continued page 11...

AHDB DAIRY WORKSHOP:

Unlock your herd's hidden breeding potential

Tue, 24 October 2023

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Solomans Estate, Broomhill Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0TG

Discover the untapped potential in your herd at our workshop where we'll reveal hidden gems in your herd's data and you'll walk away with a tailored report that will take your breeding decisions to the next level.

The choices you make will have a lasting effect on farm profitability as they accumulate over generations. While good selections positively influence your herd for years to come, poor decisions can hinder improvements from good management.

Your milk recording data is already shaping UK genetics through AHDB who provide the independent evaluations used by breeding companies. But are you making the most of this data with your herd's breeding decisions?

At the workshop, AHDB's genetic expert will enable you to:

Create clear breeding goals tailored to your farm's requirements

Access and analyse your herd's genetic potential with a personalised report

Identify your herd's baseline and identify areas for improvement

Evaluate your data and choose the right bulls for your herd

This workshop is designed for anyone with a milk recorded herd who wants to be more actively involved in their breeding strategy.

Whether you make your own breeding decisions, work with your team or breeding advisor, this workshop will give you what you need to unlock the hidden breeding potential in your herd.

Places at this workshop are available to dairy farmers and herd managers only. Please do not book if you're a third party. If you would like to find out more information about this campaign please [contact your local AHDB Knowledge Exchange Manager](#).



[BOOK NOW](#)

Source: www.ahdb.org.uk 9 August 2023

Continued from page 10...

3. Using infrastructure

Tracks and paddocks are set up to access grass during wet weather. But if you are susceptible to big weather events, plan to use infrastructure flexibly.

Having more water troughs, for instance, allows you break down paddocks further and move cows more frequently.

Drop the whole fence line between the paddock and the track to minimise damage in gateways. Cows can then choose where they enter and exit.

4. Risk management

Have money in the bank and silage in the clamp to cover events when cows have to be housed earlier or turned out later.

The cheapest and most flexible way is to have some feed in reserve, plus cash on hand.

If you put all your money into feed, it is locked in and cannot be spent elsewhere if extra feed is not needed.

5. Outwintered stock

To minimise damaged areas, if you have a week of torrential rain forecast, keep the damage to one paddock by feeding in ring feeders.

Where the soil has lost its canopy protection, because crops have been grazed, not only will this cause more treading damage and compaction, if these fields are on a slope, you can also get soil run-off.

Use back fencing to stop cows moving on to pre-grazed land.

6. Staff

The person fetching the cows is not usually the manager making decisions about feeding and paddock selection. It is important, therefore, to have good communication between the two.

Paddock damage reports need to be shared, and management plans communicated.

Make sure everyone is trained and understands what to do

Staff will be out in the bad weather most, so recognise their hard work: say thank you or give them a couple of extra beers on a Friday.

Make sure they have good wet-weather gear and dry boots.

7. Manage mental health

Talk to other people – they will all be going through the same experience, so you won't feel alone.

Remember that grass is a resilient plant, and it will recover. You can minimise damage.

Also, remember the events of the season as a whole – don't get lost in the here and now – this will be just a short blip.

Source: www.fwi.co.uk 9 October 2023

Farmers urged to monitor sheep closely as worm egg counts spike



Sheep farmers are being urged to stay vigilant for worm and fluke risks in their flocks this autumn following reports of high worm egg counts nationwide.

The latest results from the Zoetis Parasite Watch Scheme revealed worm egg counts in lambs varying from 70 to well over 700 eggs per gram (EPG) at the end of August, with an average of 380 EPG.

Therefore, farmers should consider conducting faecal egg counts (FEC) on their animals, which is also a good indication of the need for treatment in lambs alongside growth rates.

The Zoetis Parasite Watch Scheme collects data from 26 farms to provide a comprehensive parasite tracking service. Each farm takes FEC samples every 2-3 weeks through the spring and summer, with results uploaded to www.parasitewatch.co.uk.

Zoetis vet Patricia van Veen said the extreme and variable weather is making predictions difficult and is likely contributing to localised spikes in FECs. Parasite Watch data from previous years shows the parasite challenge remains a real risk into the autumn.

"Fluke is more challenging to monitor through FECs at this time of the year, as the time between infection and egg production, known as the pre-patent period, is 10-12 weeks. During this period, the early immature migrating larvae do a lot of damage, causing the disease known as acute fluke in any age of sheep," she explained.

"Ewes and rams also need monitoring in the approach to tupping as fluke burdens could impact their condition and conception rates."

Mrs van Veen stressed the importance of farmers working with their animal health provider to select the best product, particularly when there is a mixed parasite burden in their lambs.

"CYDECTIN TriclaMox Drench for Sheep is one option for treating lambs for mixed fluke and worm burdens. It contains the potent active moxidectin (3-ML group), which persists for 35 days and will treat stomach worms. The other active ingredient is triclabendazole, which is effective against early immature as well as late immature and adult fluke.

"However, if fluke is not an issue, then a persistent 3-ML wormer, such as CYDECTIN Oral Solution For Sheep can be used to selectively treat lambs during the Autumn as challenges have been shown to remain high during this time of the year," Ms Van Veen explained.

Source: www.farmersguide.co.uk 29 September 2023



Vets launch online training for farmers

Farmers and their staff can now access Red Tractor accredited veterinary training online, to complete in their own time and gain Dairy Pro points. Synergy Farm Health, which already delivers a wide variety of farmer training in-person, has developed a new online training platform, to cater for those who struggle to make physical workshops.

Convenient online courses for farmers

"Our experience is that attending courses in person often proves challenging for a variety of reasons for farm staff, but there is an ever-increasing demand for quality training to meet milk buyer/Red Tractor requirements," says Pete O'Malley, vet at Synergy Farm Health. "There is a lack of quality online training available for the production animal industry – but there is definite demand for training farm staff in subjects like youngstock health, medicine training, and downer cows. This doesn't necessarily have to be delivered one-to-one, they can be studied at the individual's convenience."

The courses – which are bite-sized modules of video learning followed by an online test at the end – have taken some time to create, and the first to become available is Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines in Cattle. This will soon be followed by Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines in Sheep, care of the downer cow, cattle handling, lameness management, and youngstock health management.

Trainees can undertake the courses in their own time, and once successfully completed, receive a certificate and DairyPro points, which can be used for their Red Tractor assurance. "We know that farmers have difficult working

hours and limited travelling time," says Mr O'Malley. "Hopefully this online training overcomes those obstacles."

Carefully designed training for farmers and farm workers

Rhian Baker at FAW Bakers, Rushywood Farm, Somerset, has already been using the system for training farm staff. "The Synergy Farm training platform creates an easy way to train our staff and keep a record of their progress, using the MCQ assessments to assess operator knowledge," she explains. "We use it both as a part of an induction process and for refresher training. Since rolling the training out it has received positive feedback from our team."

Mr O'Malley hopes that the training will help farmers across the UK and further afield. "We have carefully designed our learning platform to be video-based, accessible from either a computer or your phone, incorporating subtitles and translation tools to ensure our training is accessible to as many people as possible."

Synergy Farm Health is a proudly independent veterinary practice, delivering high quality healthcare and specialist advice for farm animals, through its experienced and locally based teams. The team includes several nationally-recognised specialists, and embraces the latest technology and innovation to provide a first-class service. As well as vet and vet technician services, the firm provides medicines, training and events, sampling and laboratory facilities and research and consultancy.

Synergy will be officially launching the online training at the Dairy Show on 4th October. Staff will be on hand to give live demonstrations and answer any questions producers might have. More information can be found on the Synergy website.

Source: www.farmersguide.co.uk, 1 October 2023

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FORAGE

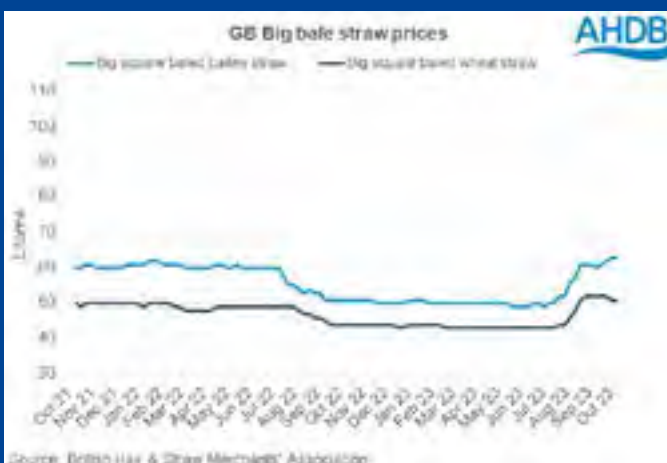
OH
HEY!
HAY!

HAY AND STRAW PRICES

These figures, from the British Hay and Straw Merchants' Association for Great Britain show average merchant buying prices and are available on a monthly and weekly basis. [The downloadable Excel file also shows weekly prices for the key regions across GB.](#) Prices include big bale hay and big square baled barley and wheat straw.

GB weekly hay and straw prices					
Etoria (x-tonn)	06/10/2023	01/10/2023	Weekly change	06/10/2022	Annual change
Big bale hay	84	84	0	74	10
Big square baled barley straw	51	51	0	51	0
Big square baled wheat straw	51	51	0	44	7

Source: British Hay & Straw Merchants' Association



[CLICK HERE FOR UP TO DATE PRICES](#)

RAMSAK Forage enquiries via:
karen@ramsak.co.uk

AHDB: Latest grass growth commentary

27 September 2023*

Growth is just above the five-year average. If you are low on average cover and if this will limit your grazing in the autumn, then there is still an opportunity for a little nitrogen (if you are not in an NVZ) to push growth.

It is worth feeding a little supplement now to drop demand and build a little more cover. At 40 kg DM/ha growth on good swards, nitrogen will give you a 10 to 1 response and help keep rust away.

Grass utilisation drives profit, and the longer we can keep cows out grazing we limit spend. Cost of production has the greatest correlation with profit – bear these two points in mind.

The start of the last round is upon us. There are two major points with the last round:

A well-set-up autumn rotation will help maximise grass in the diet for as long as we can in the autumn

It sets up the new grazing season of 2024; get it right and it will help you start well

Spring calvers, have you got rid of your culls? If you are short on the average cover, consider reducing demand by getting rid of them. Especially if you are having to supplement feed already – you may be fully feeding these culls supplement, and that surely does not pay.

What are your ground conditions like? Last week, getting caught in a heavy downpour and soaked while walking my dog, I noticed the stream as I was walking along was virtually empty.

A few days later, in Dorset, on a heavy clay farm, I dug a hole, and there was moisture in the first 5–7 cm; below was dust. Is this the same for you? If so, then there is the opportunity to extend grazing as this farm will need a serious amount of rain before ground conditions are considered limiting.

To balance this, yesterday on light land in Devon, I dug a hole, and it showed moisture to spade depth, which was not surprising as it was very free-draining soil.

However, on heavy land, the situation this autumn may be a lot easier to graze for longer; there may be an opportunity...

Another conversation I had recently was about crude protein levels of concentrate fed. In one case where my client was going to raise crude protein levels of his next load of concentrate, I asked why. Dropping quality of grass, he said! We had just walked some good quality grass!

Forage for Knowledge data going back to 2009 shows grass crude protein is between 20% and 30% virtually all the time (except in the hot and dry June when plants are finishing heading and under pressure).

Continued...



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www.ramsak.co.uk

Continued from page 12...

Here is a quick crude calculation to do about the crude protein of the diet:

16 kg DM grass at 20% CP (low end of the range)

2 kg DM concentrate at 16% (the figure my client was at and thinking of going to 18%)

18 kg DM total intake

$16 \times 0.2 = 3.2$

$2 \times 0.16 = 0.32$ Add $3.2 + 0.32 = 3.52$

$3.52/18 \times 100 = 19.6\%$ CP in the diet

Do you still need to increase crude protein levels? I asked. Maybe not was the answer.

Early lactation CP % requirement 16–18% – modern thinking nearer 16%, spring calver late lactation 14–16%

Body condition – Most spring calving herds I have seen seem to be doing well. Have a look through your herd; have you any not gaining? Probably those in their first and second lactation; if they appear thin, have you a plan?

There is still plenty of time, but don't leave it too late. A thin cow at dry off will be thin at calving (thin cow thin milk), and it will delay her cycling.

Time to look at budgets – Track how you are doing. There is still time to claw back profit in the last two months of grazing season.

**Commentary source*

Pasture for Profit consultant, Piers Badnell, will provide comments (usually, every two weeks)

throughout the main grass growing season.

Disclaimer

This data set also includes grass growth and quality data from the AHDB-sponsored beef and sheep GrassCheck GB contributors in England.

Source: www.ahdb.org.uk, 27 September 2023

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FUEL PRICE OVERVIEW

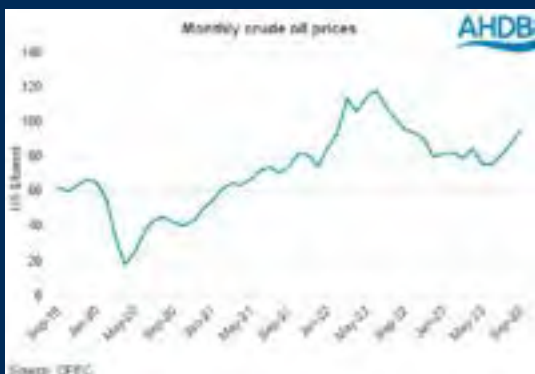
Monthly

These figures give an overview of the fuel markets, focusing on crude oil and diesel prices on both a monthly and annual basis.

Month	CRUC price (£/b) (left)	CRUC price (£/b) (right)	UK red diesel (ppl)	UK diesel (ppl)
Sep 21	64.00	79.20	68.18	157.74
Aug 22	87.55	98.70	62.01	160.80
Month-on-month change	2.31	7.23	6.57	7.63
% change	0.2%	0.9%	0.8%	0.2%
Sep 21	65.37	84.10	100.00	160.20
Year-on-year change	3.72	7.63	19.00	20.60
% change	5.7%	9.1%	13.2%	12.9%

Source: Data: OPEC, OPEC, ADB

*Red diesel duty = 11.14ppl from April 2011 to March 2022, 10.18 from April 2022



Visit the OPEC for more on crude prices
 Figures Courtesy of: www.ahdb.org.uk

FUEL NEWS

UKIFDA and OFTEC launch 'Be Winter Wise' campaign for heating oil users

With unpredictable weather and the continuing cost of living pressures, UKIFDA and OFTEC have launched their Be Winter Wise campaign – a five-point plan to help heating oil users plan ahead for winter 2023-2024.

The campaign aims to provide guidance for the 1.7m off gas grid households, offering helpful reminders and useful advice to encourage them to save energy, get the best out of their heating and prepare for uncertainty.

Ken Cronin, CEO of UKIFDA, says: "Our advice is to buy early. Often people use more than they anticipate during poor summers and leave it to the last minute to order. Our distributors are used to planning and managing the complex supply process, but unpredictability can disrupt delivery."

"During the busy winter months, an emergency delivery can be costly, and it is not always possible for distributors to make this type of delivery, so planning ahead is essential."

OFTEC Chief Executive Paul Rose commented: "To ensure efficient operation, I recommend booking an OFTEC registered technician to service liquid fuel-fired heating and cooking systems annually. This can reduce fuel bills and save money on costly call out fees for unexpected breakdowns. Before becoming OFTEC registered, heating technicians must undergo training and are regularly inspected to make sure they work competently."

Prioritising those at risk

The [Be Winter Wise](#) campaign also offers information about UKIFDA's [Cold Weather Priority \(CWP\)](#) scheme, which identifies those most at risk from the cold and takes proactive steps to prioritise deliveries to them. UKIFDA customers aged 75 or over are eligible to join the CWP scheme, which will cost them nothing. They simply ask their usual UKIFDA heating oil supplier to include them in it.

The campaign also provides resources for heating oil users who are struggling to pay for their oil, including the [Government's Help For Households](#) campaign and its [Help With Your Energy Bills](#) guide offers helpful advice on this year's Winter Fuel and Cold Weather payments.

[Find out more about the Be Winter Wise 5 Point Plan here.](#)

Source: www.fueloilnews.co.uk,

29 September 2023

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Claas moves to sustainable HVO fuel in latest green initiative



Claas has announced that from 1st October 2023, all its agricultural machinery that meets the latest emissions standard will be approved for use with hydrotreated vegetable oils (HVOs) and new machines leaving the factory will now be filled with this sustainable biofuel, saving 2,500 tonnes of CO2 a year.

HVO consists mainly of used cooking oil and animal fats, along with vegetable oils, and has several advantages in that it does not require any engine upgrades, and can even be used in conjunction with conventional diesel fuel, without the need for special storage facilities.

Machine performance in terms of power, wear, durability or engine lifetime has been described as similar, with the added benefit of reducing CO2 emissions by up to 90% over the life cycle of the engine.

The switch to HVO fuel marks a significant step in the company's efforts to protect the climate by increasing the sustainability of its machines. Dr Martin von Hoyningen-Huene, executive vice president at BU Tractor, commented:

"There are no real alternatives to the combustion engine for high-performance agricultural machines in the foreseeable future. So, we need solutions that reduce fossil fuel emissions associated with this type of drive, yet do not have significant adverse effects on manufacturing costs, consumption, weight and durability.

"Hydrotreated plant oils are an ideal choice because they already exist and their positive environmental impacts are immediately apparent."

In the company's view, a gradual de-fossilisation of agricultural production and machinery is needed to meet climate targets, and this will shape the development of future drive systems.

While battery-powered drive offers advantages for low engine outputs, this technology reaches its limits with increasing power and energy requirements. According to Claas, a battery-

powered Jaguar forage harvester would have to be at least twice the size and weight of a current model using liquid fuel to achieve comparable performance and range.

In addition, gaseous fuels such as methane or hydrogen also have significant disadvantages in terms of their energy density and thus their energy storage requirements.

"In the future, battery-powered drives will offer a suitable alternative for municipal work, light fieldwork and applications in and around the farmyard," explained Patrick Ahlbrand, from CLAAS Product Strategy.

"However, for harvesting machines and large tractors above 150 hp, there is no realistic alternative to sustainable liquid fuels in the long-term."

Hassle-free use and wide availability

With HVO, there is no need to upgrade or replace Stage V machines, as they can simply be filled with the biofuel and then used exactly as before, even mixed with diesel, without any restrictions.

Existing farm fuel tanks previously storing diesel can also be used without requiring modification, enabling farmers and contractors to easily switch to the sustainable alternative.

Due to fuel characteristics comparable with those of fossil fuels, there are no noticeable losses in engine performance, operating lifetime, wear or durability. HVO can be used in its pure form (HVO100) or as a drop-in fuel mixed in any ratio with conventional diesel.

When using HVO100, CO2 emissions can be reduced by up to 90% over the entire life cycle of the engine, while less nitrogen oxide and particulate matter are emitted during combustion. Furthermore, since the fuel is manufactured mainly from waste and residues, no additional vegetable oils have to be produced, minimising competition with food.

During the production of HVO, biogenic raw materials are converted to hydrocarbons in a reaction with a small quantity of hydrogen (hydrogenation). This process modifies the characteristics of the vegetable oils to resemble fossil fuels, enabling them to be used as a diesel substitute in mobile work machines.

In many countries, HVO is already widely available at fuel stations, either in the form of pure HVO100 or blended with conventional diesel fuel. In contrast, in some countries HVO100 can only be sold through closed user groups such as company filling stations.

However, international efforts indicate that HVO100 will soon be available trans-nationally under the DIN EN 15940 fuel standard (paraffinic diesel fuel from synthesis or hydrotreatment).

Source: www.farmersguide.co.uk, 2 October 2023



Certas Energy continues transition journey with solar installer acquisition

Certas Energy has taken another major stride on its mission to empower businesses with their energy transition journey, with its acquisition of the UK's leading installer of B2B solar energy systems, Centreco.

Based in Chorley in the North West of England, Centreco is a specialist provider of commercial solar energy systems to businesses across the UK. Over the past decade, the company has grown rapidly, gaining significant success in the commercial rooftop sector.

The acquisition of Centreco not only accelerates Certas Energy's renewable energy ambitions and capabilities but signals a significant milestone on its roadmap to a lower carbon future.

Supporting energy evolution

Steve Little, managing director of Certas Energy, said: "This acquisition represents a major milestone for both Certas Energy and Centreco.

"As demand for self-generated solar energy systems continues to grow, powered by energy security concerns, electricity cost mitigation, and environmental legislation, Certas Energy and Centreco will be perfectly poised to meet this need. Together, we can help customers to optimise and evolve their energy mix.

"We are delighted to welcome the Centreco team on board and have no doubt that their technical skills, business development and operational capabilities will further enhance our expanding range of renewable solutions and elevate Certas Energy's position as the energy partner of choice." Centreco is the first specialist commercial solar

provider to join Certas Energy's growing portfolio of renewable energy solutions and services within its Energy Solutions Renewables Division. It will play an integral role in Certas Energy's renewables offering, providing a complete turnkey solution to switch on the UK's commercial solar potential.

Centreco's systems deliver immediate energy cost savings, offer protection from electricity price inflation, and minimise the environmental impact of client operations. Its customer base primarily consists of medium to large scale B2B businesses, including industrial, manufacturing and commercial companies.

Focusing on the B2B rooftop market, Centreco's 85-strong team of committed and experienced employees oversee every aspect of the solar project, from design and approvals to installation and project management.

Driving meaningful change

Certas Energy's acquisition pipeline is a core part of its strategy to become a leader in the UK's renewable energy installed services space. The partnership with Centreco closely follows the acquisition of Hafod Renewable Energy, one of the UK's fastest growing renewable energy businesses, as well as the purchase of Freedom Heat Pumps, one of the UK's leading distributors of air source and ground source heat pump equipment.

"As a business, we have our sights firmly set on bringing together the UK's energy powerhouses to drive meaningful change and ensure our customers' journey to lower carbon operations is as smooth and seamless as possible," added Steve. "By expanding our portfolio, growing our renewables division and harnessing industry-leading expertise, we are confident that we can achieve and exceed this ambition."

Source: www.fueloilnews.co.uk, (edited) 7 September 2023



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John Deere develops ethanol engine

John Deere is continuing to work toward its Leap Ambitions

The company's focused goals designed to boost economic value and sustainability for customers while delivering better outcomes with less resources. Under the Leap Ambitions, John Deere is working to innovate viable low- and near zero-carbon power solutions by 2026 within four key areas of power generation, including internal combustion engine (ICE) efficiencies, renewable fuels, hybridization, and full battery-electric options.

John Deere is committed to bringing the most advanced and effective renewable fuel solutions to its customers by prioritizing the technologies and resources

that make the most sense for its customers. Within the variety of available renewable fuels, John Deere considers biodiesel, renewable diesel (or HVO), and ethanol to be the most promising options for near-term integration into heavy duty applications.

Ethanol is an alcohol-based renewable fuel that is widely available in many parts of the world since it can be made from feedstocks such as corn, wheat, or sugar cane. As a high-octane fuel, ethanol is attractive for high performance spark ignited engines.

John Deere is leveraging its world-class engineering expertise to vet and test new technologies that simplify the integration of renewable fuels with combustion engine technology as it strives to deliver more value and productivity to customers.

John Deere will have a concept 9.0L engine that is compatible with ethanol on display at this year's AGRITECHNICA show. This concept engine illustrates the company's ongoing commitment to developing a diversified portfolio of solutions that can meet power needs across equipment sizes and applications.

Source: www.fueloilnews.co.uk, 11 August 2023



We are part of NWF, originally a farming cooperative established in 1871 and have been servicing farmers for over 140 years.

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Direct Drive Deals 2022													
ABAC Code	Model Description	Oil-Free / Lubricated	Receiver Ltr	Capacity Displacement		Max Pressure		Motor		Noise dB(A)	Volts	List Price 2023	Direct Drive Deal Price
				CFM	L/ min	Psi	Bar	HP	kW				
BASELINE Range 1.5 - 2 HP (1.1 - 1.5 kW)													
1129100011	VENTO B15 BASELINE UK	Oil-Free	6	5.7	160	116	8	1.5	1.1	68	230/1/50 *	£208	£126
1129100017	POLE POSITION B15 BASELINE UK	Oil-Free	24	5.7	160	116	8	1.5	1.1	68	230/1/50 *	£234	£145
1129981010	POLE POSITION B20 BASELINE UK	Lubricated	24	6.7	190	116	8	2	1.5	68	230/1/50 *	£250	£159
1129981011	MONTECARLO B20 BASELINE UK	Lubricated	50	6.7	190	116	8	2	1.5	68	230/1/50 *	£310	£178
LINE SERIES COMPRESSORS - DIRECT DRIVE, 1.5-2HP (1.1 - 1.5kW)													
2236115862	SUITCASE 6 UK	Oil - Free	6	5.6	160	116	8	1.5	1.4	68	230/1/50*	£293	£165
1129100202	POLE POSITION L20	Lubricated	24	7.8	220	116	8	2	1.5	70	230/1/50 *	£393	£174
1129100178	MONTECARLO L20	Lubricated	50	7.8	220	116	8	2	1.5	70	230/1/50 *	£462	£222
PRO SERIES COMPRESSORS - DIRECT DRIVE, 3HP (2.2kW)													
1129100173	POLE POSITION L30P	Lubricated	24	11	310	145	10	3	2.2	73	230/1/50 *	£522	£315
1129981090	V 36/50 ABAC UK	Lubricated	50	12.5	355	145	10	3	2.2	87	230/1/50 *	£640	£377
OS SUPER SILENT XSS SERIES COMPRESSORS - OIL FREE DIRECT DRIVE, 2HP (1.5kW)													
1129741038	START OSS 20P UK	Oil-Free	6	7.8	222	145	10	2	1.5	68	230/1/50 *	£344	£210
1129741052	POLE POSITION OSS 20P UK	Oil-Free	24	7.8	222	145	10	2	1.5	72	230/1/50 *	£433	£225
1129741057	MONTECARLO OSS 20P UK	Oil-Free	50	7.8	222	145	10	2	1.5	72	230/1/50 *	£473	£235



1129100011	1129100017	1129981010	1129981011	2236115862	1129100202	1129100178	1129100173	1129981090	1129741038	1129741052	1129741057
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PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS



£12.5 million awarded for robotics and automation projects to boost sustainable farming

- **Robots, drones and automated vehicles receive funding to increase productivity and enhance sustainable farming practices**
- **Nineteen winning projects will see new technologies built to predict strawberry yield, increase vineyard productivity and optimise harvesting schedules**
- **Farming Minister sets out government's approach to agri-tech and innovation at the World Agri-Tech Summit.**

Nineteen innovative projects developing automation and robotic technologies will receive a share of £12.5 million in government funding to boost productivity, food security and sustainable farming practices, the Farming Minister Mark Spencer has announced today (28 September). This brings the total government funding announced to fund industry-led research and development in agriculture and horticulture to £120 million since 2021.

The projects - funded through the Farming Futures Automation and Robotics competition - include developing a system to accurately predict and enhance quality of strawberry yields, reduce waste and optimise labour and harvesting schedules; a new system to digitally map and monitor vineyards using drones, robots and sensors; and a navigation system for field-based robotic vehicles to improve accuracy and reliability and enable safe navigation in farmyard and field operations.

The funding comes through the Farming Futures Automation and Robotics competition, which is part of Defra's £270 million Farming Innovation Programme (FIP) and is delivered by Innovate UK. The FIP has funded 17 competitions since opening in October 2021 which has already seen

the development of new approaches to help farms be more sustainable and productive, from new ways to reduce or eliminate pesticide use through to projects to reduce emissions from livestock, and will help meet our commitment at the Farm to Fork Summit in Downing Street in May to continue to produce at least 60% of the food we eat here in the UK.

Speaking at the World Agri-Tech Summit in London, Farming Minister Mark Spencer said:

"Farmers are always forward-looking, and innovation is key to driving a resilient, productive and sustainable agriculture sector that puts food on our tables.

"The government stands firmly behind agri-tech innovation as the cornerstone of modern farming practices. By providing opportunities, funding and a supportive ecosystem within the sector, we aim to empower farmers, drive innovation and create a sustainable and prosperous future for agriculture across the UK."

Since 2021, the government has announced over £120 million to fund industry-led research and development in agriculture and horticulture, and the Farming Minister Mark Spencer reiterated this commitment to oversee the transformation of the UK into a world-leading agri-tech hub at the World Agri-tech Innovation Summit this week.

At the summit, the Farming Minister outlined the range of competitions under the Farming Innovation Programme that are supporting the sector to invest in new technology that will help grow their businesses, boost productivity and benefit the environment. This includes £10 million currently on offer through the third round of the Small R&D Partnerships competition to help businesses develop a new farming product and service and take it to commercialisation on the open market, and a further £4.5 million through the Feasibility Studies Competition to support businesses and researchers through the testing phase of an idea that will improve the productivity, sustainability and resilience of farming.

In addition the Farming Investment Fund is investing in equipment, technology and infrastructure and the recently launched Investor Partnership competition combines government grant funding with private investment to help smaller agri-tech business to grow and scale.

Florian Richter, CEO of Muddy Machines LTD, said:

"Obtaining funding to research and develop such a key component of our technology is essential to our progression toward commercial operations.

"We count ourselves truly privileged to be located in the UK and be able to benefit from this level of government funding support."

Continued...

Oli Hilbourne, CEO and Co-Founder at Outfield Technologies, said:

"The VISTA Project is a great example of the strength of UK innovation funding, bringing together technology companies, growers and academic partners to solve specific industry challenges.

"The UK's wine industry is growing rapidly, learning best practice from other wine growing regions. With VISTA, the UK wine industry has an opportunity to set the international standard and export our knowledge to the rest of the wine growing world. We are really excited to get started on the project and work with UK vineyards to drive productivity increases."

Dr Katrina Hayter, Challenge Director - Transforming Food Production Challenge at Innovate UK, said:

"Robotics and automation are crucial drivers in addressing the challenges posed by a growing global population and the need for sustainable

practices in various sectors, including agriculture.

"By fostering innovation and research, we empower our farmers, growers, foresters and businesses to not only enhance productivity and economic growth but also to lead the way in sustainable practices. These projects are a testament to our commitment to improving environmental outcomes and reducing carbon emissions, ensuring a brighter and more sustainable future for our agricultural and horticultural communities."

Building on commitments at the Farm to Fork Summit at Downing Street earlier this year, the Farming Minister also pointed to opportunities such as the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act to unlock technologies to improve the productivity and resilience of crops, and support for farmers to attract investment and generate revenue through access to nature markets.

Source: www.agrimachinerynews.com, 22 August '23



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5000 LITRE DARI-KOOL BULK TANK, automatic wash, regularly maintained

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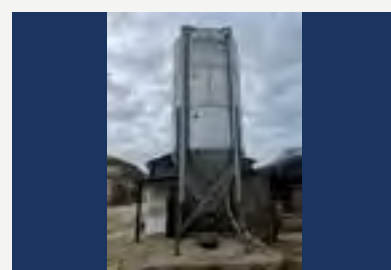


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10/23

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The Karcher BR 75/140 Ride On Scrubber Dryer offers superb performance and high versatility. The Karcher BR 75/140 R Ride On Scrubber Dryer features a 750mm roller scrubbing head and has a maximum cleaning width of 1140mm and despite of the Karcher BR 75/140 R Ride On Scrubber Drier's capacity of 140 Litres they are narrow and extremely manoeuvrable, easily fitting through doorways or high bay warehouse aisles View the video: [Karcher br 75/140 scrubber dryer](#) 4/23

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Total including delivery and installation:
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2023 Quotation Valid 28 Days

Derby Range

Mobile Field Shelter – 3.6m x 3.6m
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2023 Quotation Valid 28 Days

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For the full specifications, please contact
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- Ensuring animal welfare standards are met.
- Must be happy to be on-call for evening calving's when required.
- Keep cattle medical records up to date.
- Maintaining the condition, cleanliness, and appearance of the farm.

- Maintaining farm machinery keeping them in working order.
- Operating farm machinery for mucking out, haymaking, hedge cutting, rolling, and harrowing.
- Maintaining safe and secure livestock fences.

Skills and Experience:

- Experience with livestock or an agricultural background.
- Due to the rural location your own transport is necessary.
- Ability to prioritise and complete tasks with strong attention to detail.
- Self-motivation and the ability to work alone
- good communication skills as part of a team.
- must have a level of independence, self-reliance, and ability to show initiative
- experience with tractor driving and using machinery competently, installing implements on and off tractors

The Company Offers:

- wages to be discussed
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- To have the use of a Stockperson's quarters during calving time.
- Enrolment onto company pension scheme (for over 22's).

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It is desirable that the post holder has the relevant qualifications in tractor driving, safe use of medicines and is familiar with working with Farmplan software.

The successful candidate will be a multifunctional person who is flexible enough to carry out several different jobs around the farm. Someone who has excellent tractor driving skills, a passion for stock and an eye for attention to detail.

If you are interested in this role and would like to know more about it, please contact us and send us your CV to Farmhouse_gabriels@yahoo.co.uk

SITUATIONS VACANT - NPC TREE SURGERY
RAMSAK member NPC Tree Surgery based near Sevenoaks need an experienced agricultural worker with the following experience/competence:

- Tractor Driving with trailers
- Tractor hedge cutting
- Hay Making
- Excavator Operating
- Telehandler Operating
- Livestock experience (Sheep and Wild Boar - not critical)
- Chainsaw Operating

Starting Salary £30K PA

Normal working hours: Mon - Fri 07:30-16:30

Over time rate: 1.5 x Normal Rate

Contact lynsey@ramsak.co.uk for info. 7/23

APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH PLUMPTON COLLEGE - more information via links:

[Business Administrator Apprentice](#), Plumpton
[Livestock Apprentice](#), Billingshurst
[Apprentice Groom](#), Heathfield 10/23

PROPERTY

LAND RENTAL WANTED - TONBRIDGE AREA
RAMSAK Member looking for approximately 70 acres of land in the Tonbridge area for longer term rent for hay-making enterprise. Will consider arable land to re-seed for grass. Tonbridge area preferred. Please contact enquiries@ramsak.co.uk for more information.

OTHER

WELL ROTTED HORSE MANURE WANTED
Collected using 8 wheel grab lorries. Contact RAMSAK on enquiries@ramsak.co.uk

CHARCOAL FOR SALE

Contact RAMSAK for more information on 01622 815356.

WANTED—LARGE VOLUMES OF STANDING OAK/TIMBER Various members seeking to purchase all grades and species of standing timber. Ref: 1254/P & Ref: 1506/P

SHEEP KEEP

Winter grazing and maybe longer for 25 Romneys, ideally within a 20 mile radius of West Malling. If further would be happy to consider. Ideally fenced and safe from footpath dog walkers.

WANTED - WINTER SHEEP KEEP - ANY AREA

Please contact enquiries@ramsak.co.uk for more details

CHALK AVAILABLE

180 loads of chalk available in the Walmer/Dover area.

Please let us know if you are interested:

enquiries@ramsak.co.uk



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

£20 for 2 consecutive months in the newsletter and minimum two consecutive weeks in the circular emails. Plus a social media post and share where relevant.

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Please contact lynsey@ramsak.co.uk to place your advert.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE APPRENTICESHIPS

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So, you're looking to find out more about apprenticeships? Great! Did you know Plumpton College is one of the country's leading land based apprenticeship providers?

No matter what stage of your career, whether just starting out in the world of work or already an established member of staff, we can support you to develop your skills, knowledge and behaviours in your chosen profession via an apprenticeship scheme.

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a real job that combines hands on work with the opportunity to train and develop your skills, knowledge and behaviours in your chosen profession.

At least 20% of your contracted hours will be spent in training and development, either with us at college, via online learning or even in your workplace. The rest of your time will be spent applying your skills and knowledge in your workplace, doing the job you have been employed to do.

Current apprenticeship opportunities (click link for information):

[Business Administrator Apprentice](#), Plumpton
[Livestock Apprentice](#), Billingshurst
[Apprentice Groom](#), Heathfield

The full offer of apprenticeships currently available can be found [HERE](#).

Employers - Let us help you find an apprentice!

Finding the right apprentice for your business can feel like a daunting task if you are not used to the recruitment process.

At Plumpton we want to take the headache out of recruiting apprentices by providing a service designed to support you in finding the right talent for your business. Ultimately, the decision on who you employ is down to you, no one knows your business better than you do, however, our experienced recruitment team are available to support and guide you from the start to the end of the recruitment process.

Our [Employer Recruitment](#) and [Candidate Talent Bank Service](#) aims to match recruiting

employers with actively looking job (apprenticeship) seekers, this free service has provide really popular and had great success since it's launch last year. Click on the links for more information.



All of our current apprenticeships can be found on this page: <https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/courses/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-programmes-at-plumpton/>

If you are wanting to start an apprenticeship but do not have an employer, you can register to our Talent Bank and we can alert you to vacancies when they become available, and may approach companies on your behalf: <https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/courses/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-talent-bank/>

Current apprenticeship vacancies can be viewed on the following page: <https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/courses/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-vacancies/>

If you are an employer and would like to enrol a staff member onto an apprenticeship, more information is available here: <https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/business-services/apprenticeships-for-employers/>

Alternatively, feel free to email business@plumpton.ac.uk for more information.

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We are constantly working on increasing the range of advisors and consultants available to you as a Member of RAMSAK with just one call to the office on 01622 815356!

GULLANDS: Family Farming Partnerships

Farming families and the businesses they run may have grown over time and sometimes in a fairly adhoc way, but it is never too late to consider the relationships in the operation, especially when a new generation is about to join, or an older generation plans to leave.

Many issues often come to light when the partnership faces a crisis – which could be financial, a family fallout, someone leaving for a new role or due to the death of a family member.

Knowing what issues may come up and how to resolve them can help to give everyone peace of mind and to ensure the continuity for future generations.

Written agreements - why bother?

Do you have a written agreement which sets out how the farm business will be run? If you are a husband and wife team, siblings, cousins, multi-generations etc then it is important (but not legally necessary) to have a documented agreement to enable the business to continue running when one or more individuals leaves the partnership.

At least two people are needed to make up a partnership and this is typically called a general or traditional partnership which is governed by the

Partnership Act 1890. Sometimes unintentional partnerships can occur be created with the absence of written agreements and they could be involved with running different aspects of the business operation.

Partners are jointly and severally liable for the debts and obligations of the farm business. This should sound warning bells, as what if one of the partners decides the business should invest in something which the other party doesn't agree with?

Each partner has the ability to bind the partnership into contracts with a third party, as well as participating in managing the business and receiving a share of the profits or sharing liability for a loss. The partnership ends on the resignation or death of one of the partners. Each partner is personally taxed on their share of the partnership's profits.

Without a written agreement then determining how to make important decisions, or which assets are included in the partnership can sometimes cause a disagreement. In this scenario with assets then the law will regard what is brought into the partnership or acquired by the business during the partnership as partnership property. Keeping accurate and up to date farm accounts and records is typically the best way to record this information which can be referred back to and relied on in the event of a disagreement.

Farmland, although essential to the business operation, may legally be owned by one of more of the partners personally or jointly and occupied or used by the partnership under a licence or tenancy.

Land therefore should not be included on the balance sheet of the partnership unless it was the intention of the owner to transfer it to the partnership. It will only be considered transferred when the Land Registry deeds are changed.

Where issues frequently occur with these arrangements is typically on the death of a family member and unfortunately a long and costly dispute might be embarked upon by other family members who have been made promises by one of the individuals.

Having a written agreement and an up to date Will which sets out all of these points of ownership and the future running of the farm business will help to avoid a dispute and it provides a template for what happens when the partnership ends. Other advantages of a written agreement mean the partnership may qualify for tax relief and it may be able to apply for bank lending.

It's important not to leave anything to chance in life, so ensure your farm business and family's future is protected.

For more information contact Marianne Webb m.webb@gullands.com or Sarah Astley s.astley@gullands.com

www.gullands.com, 20 September 2023



THE FARMERS BALL
Farming and Rural Social Event

2 DECEMBER

20.23

at High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9JJ

3 Course Dinner and Dance
Charity Auction and Raffle in aid of Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance

Tickets: £60* per PERSON (including VAT)
Individual and whole table bookings available
Credit card bookings are also available via Eventbrite and subject to a credit card fee



Dress Code: Black Tie or Best Tweed
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To register your interest please email Lynsey@grapevine.events

*Ticket payment is required 60 days prior to the event, after which your tickets will be released for re-use. Tickets are non-refundable less than 2 weeks prior to the event, or we are committed to the venue. If the event is cancelled by the organisers, payment will be refunded less a £15 per ticket admin fee.

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