

DECEMBER 2023

# NEWSLETTER



## FUEL DELIVERIES

Please be advised that due to high demand and terminal delays, we would advise to order your fuel in advance before the Christmas period to avoid loss of productivity and chilly homes!

**FUEL NEWS:** Industry body highlights importance of seasonal support scheme for heating oil users, Industry partnership will deliver low-carbon LPG replacement plan Pages 12-13

**AGRISOUTH ARABLE NEWS:** AHDB - Analyst Insight: UK final 2023, NIAB - Environmental impact of wheat production under regenerative agriculture practices Pages 4-5

**PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS:** CRAWFORDS - Unveiling the MF 9S Series: Massey Ferguson's Latest Powerhouse, AUTOQUIP - Off highway diagnostics Pages 17-20



**LIVESTOCK POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS:** Defra confirms 22 bluetongue cases but 'no evidence' virus is circulating and more... Pages 8-9



**HORTICULTURE NEWS:** British apple industry on a knife-edge new data reveals, Tributes paid to Adrian Scripps and more... Pages 6-7

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**THE RAMSAK OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2023 UNTIL TUESDAY 2 JANUARY 2024**

**PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDERS BEFORE WE SHUT DOWN FOR CHRISTMAS TO ENSURE WE CAN FULFIL YOUR REQUIREMENTS OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD.**



# BLEATINGS FROM RAMSAK HQ...

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



*Dear Reader*

### **Message from Tierney in Accounts:**

*Please note that direct debit collections and payments over Christmas and New Year are Wednesday 27th December and Monday 8th January.*

### **Message from Karen regarding forage:**

*The forage market is moving! All FORAGE WANTED for waiting buyers! Please get in touch with what you have available.*

### **Message from Lucy regarding fuel orders:**

*Please place your fuel and kerosene orders within plenty of time, there will be delays due to increased demand and staff holiday due to the festive period.*

### **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](mailto:Lucy@ramsak.co.uk) as soon as possible.*

### **Marketing message from Lynsey:**

*Please ensure your details are up to date with regards to your products and services available to the membership. We are unable to market you fully if we don't have up to date information and special offers, etc. from you.*

*Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year and enjoy your break if you are lucky enough to have one!*

*For the New Year, 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](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk)**

## Further bluetongue cases in Kent



### Another five cases have been confirmed in cattle within the Temporary Control Zone (TCZ) in Kent.

All five animals will be humanely culled to minimise the risk of onward transmission. The TCZ is not being extended and movement restrictions continue to apply to cattle, sheep and other ruminants in the zone.

The first case of the emerging BTV-3 strain was confirmed in Kent in November and there have now been a total of 19 cases on eight different holdings.

There is currently still no evidence that bluetongue virus is circulating in Great Britain and surveillance is ongoing, the Ruminant Health & Welfare group said.

Cattle do not often show clear signs of disease so owners should also look out for signs of fatigue and lower productivity including reduced milk yield. However, signs may include:

- Crusty erosions around the nostrils and muzzle
- Redness of the mouth, eyes, nose
- Redding of the skin above the hoof
- Nasal discharge
- Reddening and erosions on the teats.

Signs in sheep include:

- Lethargy, reluctance to move
- Crusty erosions around the nostrils and on the muzzle
- Discharge of mucus and drooling from mouth and nose
- Swelling of the muzzle, face and above the hoof
- Reddening of the skin above the hoof
- Redness of the mouth, eyes, nose
- Breathing problems
- Erosions on the teats.

Suspicion of BTV in animals in England must be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency on 03000 200 301. In Wales, contact 0300 303 8268.

For more information visit: <https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus>

Source: [www.agriland.co.uk](http://www.agriland.co.uk), 17 November 2023

## AHDB: Progress update on Red Tractor

Following recent meetings of the Red Tractor main board and of the ownership group, both of which AHDB is a member of, this update serves to keep levy payers informed about progress and our position on related matters.

Our role is to provide the industry with evidence on which others who are representative, trade or membership organisations can make informed decisions.

In the case of assurance, we are consistent in stating that it is vital that the reputation of levy payers' produce is maintained by assurance and where relevant, audits, to underpin the work we do on behalf of the industry in regard to promotion in the home and export markets.

The UK operates in an increasingly competitive international food environment, and we must be prepared to prove the high standards of quality, safety, production and provenance of our food to defend and promote the reputation of our industry.

We must also respond to the changing needs of our customers and consumers.

Our position remains that a wide-ranging independent strategic review of assurance needs to take place.

We are currently working on what the terms of reference for this review will cover and we are doing this in conjunction with the NFU. AFS/Red Tractor have indicated that such a review is outside of their remit.

In summary, the two reviews that have been referenced in relation to Red Tractor are as follows:

- NFU governance review of Red Tractor. The NFU has commissioned Cambell Tickell to undertake a review of Red Tractor governance which will report back to the NFU council and Red Tractor at the end of January 2024. Terms of reference [can be found here](#).
- Wider review into assurance. As mentioned above, we have pressed for a more strategic review on assurance to take place, however this was not supported widely at the Red Tractor board or ownership group. AHDB and the NFU will continue to progress this work with urgency and encourage others to support it.

In addition to this, we recognise the need for levy payers to understand more about assurance schemes, how they operate and why they are needed. Therefore we are conducting two additional pieces of work:

- In the Beef and Lamb sector, we will explore how domestic farm standards compare with our international competitors. The first stage of this work will be complete by the end of March 2024
- In the Cereals and Oilseeds sector, we will set out what assurance covers and how it currently works for the different supply sources into our market. We are developing the terms of reference for this work, working with industry, and expect that this work will be complete by next summer

We have been clear that the Greener Farms Commitment should not be taken forward until the relevant reviews have been completed and considered.

Source: [www.ahdb.org.uk](http://www.ahdb.org.uk), 18 December 2023

# AHDB - Analyst Insight: UK final 2023 production lower

Market commentary by **Anthony Speight**  
Senior Analyst (Cereals & Oilseeds) **BIO**

- UK feed wheat futures (May-24) closed at £195.10/t yesterday, down £1.00/t from Tuesday's close. The Nov-24 contract was also down £1.00/t over the same period, ending the session at £207.25/t.
- Domestic wheat futures followed global wheat price movement down yesterday on the back of profit taking and no sign of fresh demand after last week's strong sales campaign to China.
- Paris rapeseed futures (May-24) were down €3.25/t yesterday, closing at €438.50/t. The Nov-24 contract ended yesterday's session at €444.25/t, down €3.50/t over the same period.
- Paris rapeseed futures followed the wider oilseed complex down yesterday with pressure in the US soyabean market following forecasts of rain in Brazil settling concerns over dryness in key producing regions.
- The latest [trade and agriculture commission report](#) has been published by the Department for Business & Trade. This report is the advice to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade on the UK's Accession Protocol to CPTPP. AHDB fed into this work providing impartial knowledge and market information on [what this meant for the UK edible oil market](#) following a potential change in the trading relationship with Malaysia.

## UK final 2023 production lower

Defra has released the final estimates for 2023 UK cereal and oilseed production. This is the first full UK release from Defra. So, to fill the gap AHDB published a "provisional" UK crop production estimate for 2023 in October, [read more on that here](#).

There isn't much change for these final UK production figures in comparison to the provisional figures. The data has confirmed lower national yields in comparison to 2022, with notably larger annual downgrades to spring barley and oilseed rape (OSR).

However, what we can take away from these final figures is that there is some slight tightening of UK cereals supply. Wheat, barley and oat production are all lower, both on the year and lower than expected in the October provisional UK estimates. This may lead to some slight tightening of the [UK supply and demand balance](#).

## Highlights from the release include:

- Total UK wheat production is estimated at 14.0 Mt for 2023, down 10% year-on-year. The lowest UK wheat production since 2021.

- Total UK barley production is estimated at 7.0 Mt, down 6% year-on-year. With UK winter barley production estimated marginally lower year-on-year at 3.2 Mt, a majority of the downgrade is from UK spring barley production, which is estimated at 3.8 Mt, down 10% year-on-year. Despite an increase in spring barley area for 2023, UK national yields are estimated at 5.5 t/ha, down 11% year-on-year.
- UK oat production is estimated 830 Kt, down 18% year-on-year.
- UK oilseed rape production is estimated at 1.2 Mt, down 11% year-on-year. Like spring barley, despite the annual growth in area for 2023, production is lower due to poor yields, which nationally are estimated at 3.1 t/ha, down 17% year-on-year.

Below is a table summarising the data from Defra's release:

Official UK harvest 2023 forecasts for area, yield and production for major crops

Arable crop	Official 2023 area (kha)	YOY change*	Official 2023 yield (t/ha)	YOY change*	Official 2023 production (Kt)	YOY change*
Wheat	1,720	-5%	8.1	-5%	13,988	-10%
Total barley	1,537	2%	5.1	2%	6,963	-6%
Winter barley	935	6%	7.0	2%	6,594	2%
Spring barley	602	-2%	5.5	-11%	3,369	-16%
Oats	187	-4%	5.0	-14%	830	-18%
Oilseed rape	381	7%	3.1	-17%	1,216	-11%

Source: Defra

\*Winter barley, spring barley, oats & oilseed rape figure in GB only  
\*Year on year change from harvest 2022 to harvest 2023

## How could this change the domestic supply and demand balance?

For the first official UK cereal supply and demand estimates, which were released in November, the provisional crop estimates compiled by AHDB were used for wheat, barley, and oat production. With the official Defra figures released today, how do these differ from the provisional AHDB production forecasts?

UK final 2023 cereal production is tighter than provisionally forecast

Thousand tonnes	AHDB UK provisional production estimate* (Oct. 23)	Defra UK final production figures (Dec-23)	difference (Kt)
Wheat	14,053	13,988	-75
Total barley	6,981	6,963	-17
Winter barley	3,226	3,204	-22
Spring barley	3,755	3,759	+4
Oats	841	830	-11
Oilseed rape	1,200	1,216	+16

Source: AHDB, Defra, Scottish Government

\* compiled by AHDB from provisional English data (Defra), provisional Scottish figures (Scottish Government), plus data carried forward for Wales & Northern Ireland

As the table above shows, there is a tightening of output when compared to the figures published in October 2023. Spring barley production is slightly higher than initial forecasts (+4.3 Kt), but total barley production is outweighed by the reduction in winter barley (-21.8 Kt).

UK wheat production is estimated 75 Kt lower than October 2023, which could tighten UK supply and demand (S&D) further.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Source: [www.ahdb.org.uk](http://www.ahdb.org.uk) 14 December 2023



## Assessing the environmental impact of wheat production under regenerative agriculture practices

A [recently started project](#) aims to assess the environmental impacts of new wheat lines developed at NIAB.

Eda Knight has now joined NIAB's team of Nathan Morris, Stéphanie Swarbreck and Jack Poulden to assess greenhouse gas emissions from field trials conducted as part of a long-term project evaluating novel wheat genotypes for regenerative agricultures, funded by [The Morley Agricultural Foundation \(TMAF\)](#) and described in a [previous Landmark article](#) (p22).

Given the new policies aiming at reducing the environmental footprint of agricultural production, such as the Government's 25-year Environmental Plan and the NFU strategy for farming to reach net zero by 2040, it is important to consider additional criteria besides yield. Ensuring that future wheat varieties have limited environmental impact is imperative.

[Regenerative agriculture practices](#) are becoming more popular amongst farmers aiming to continue producing high yields while protecting the soil. However, current commercial crop varieties have been assessed and selected for high yield production under more conventional agronomic practices.

We work with wheat, given its relevance to the UK's and world's food security. In addition, as part of its pre-breeding programme NIAB has worked for many years to increase the genetic diversity of wheat. A suite of wheat material has been created with introgressions from re-synthesised wheat (also known as synthetic hexaploid wheat or SHW) as part of the BBSRC-funded Designing Future Wheat programme.

Early data suggest that some lines have reproducible yields that exceed the yield observed for recurrent parent, indicating that the novel introgression lines contain traits that convey a yield advantage.

In parallel, NIAB has a long history in conducting research in agronomy. In particular, the long-term [New Farming System \(NFS\)](#) study supported by TMAF has been exploring ways to reduce tillage and build fertility; these practises are components of regenerative agriculture.



### The trial in summer 2023

In Autumn 2022, a team of researchers from NIAB started a multi-disciplinary research project encompassing agronomy, genetics and molecular plant physiology to assess novel wheat genotypes in regenerative agriculture conditions. In agronomic research, the longevity of research projects is critical and therefore, a series of field trials will be conducted over a period of six years.

Following a rotation based on winter wheat, trials will rotate across well-characterised experimental sites in East Anglia, with a known history of management. In the first year, we assessed varieties under a long-term direct drilling field at Childerley in Cambridgeshire, which was established in an eight-year study funded through the NIAB membership scheme.

The field has splits with conventional (deep non-inversion) and low disturbance, direct-drilling approaches that can be used to overlay a fully replicated plot trial looking at fifteen novel wheat genotypes in low and high nitrogen-responsive scenarios. Additional trials will be based at the Morley regional centre in Norfolk, followed by the TMAF-supported Saxmundham experimental site in Suffolk, which was established in 1899, and include low phosphorus treatment.

Eda's PhD is funded through the CTP-SAI, and is collaborative project including Dr Stéphanie Swarbreck (NIAB), Dr Nick Girkin and Prof. Sofie Sjögersten (University of Nottingham), Dr Lydia Smith (NIAB) and Ron Stobbart (Sainsbury's). With a combination of fieldwork measurements and modelling, Eda will address the following objectives: (1) assessing mechanisms of genotype-specific regulation of GHG production, (2) quantifying the potential of novel fertiliser application methods and (3) modelling the impacts of novel fertiliser applications on soil structure and health, in combination with genotypes at field to farm scale.

NIAB's Jack Poulden explains more about the project in this video:



Source: [www.niab.com](http://www.niab.com), 23 November 2023



**British Apples & Pears Limited (BAPL) has published a new set of data that highlights the continued struggles for beleaguered UK top fruit growers.**

Over the two years since 2021, British apple growers faced 30% increases in costs of production and received just 8% increases in returns from supermarkets.

In 2022, growers faced cost of production increases of 23% and practically static returns from supermarkets that year of 0.8%. In 2023, British apple growers faced 6-9% cost of production increases and received an average of 7% increases in returns from UK supermarkets.

"This situation is unsustainable." Said executive chair of BAPL, Ali Capper. "The industry is on a knife edge. I've never heard such desperation from our members. When you think about what a good news story our industry should be, it's heart breaking. Apples are a superfood – great for our health, the environment and our rural economy.

"The volatility in costs has become the biggest challenge faced by growers, many of them out of their control from labour and energy to the ever-increasing cost of the audit burden. We should not be talking about the slow decline of British apple orchards, and generations of family farm businesses at risk of bankruptcy."

Given this situation, confidence in British apple growing is understandably low:

- 70% of growers said they are less confident than they were a year ago.
- Just 3% of growers said they have a 'true partnership' with supermarkets, while 45% say retailers only buy on price and that it's not a true partnership.
- Almost half (45%) of respondents said they have scaled back their future investment plans.

"Ultimately, it's not just British growers that are losing out, it's UK shoppers too." Continued Ali Capper.

"According to The Grocer's analysis of Assosia data, in the two years from November 2021 to

November 2023, the price of apples has increased significantly with the average price in Aldi rising by 12.6%, Lidl 12.1%, Tesco by 10.9% and Sainsbury's by 9.1%. Together these four retailers sell over 70% of all British apples and pears. And the averages hide some startling extremes, Lidl's Oaklands Red Apples 2kg went up by 50%, Morrisons British Apples (six pack) went up 39% and Tesco increased the price of its Rosedene Farms Gala apples (six pack) by 36%.

"Unfortunately, those consumer price increases are not being matched by the much-needed returns to growers."

In response to the crisis in the industry, BAPL has set out three critical changes needed to save British apple orchards:

- Supermarkets to increase returns to growers to reflect the true cost of production and necessary investment.
- Supermarkets to enter longer-term arrangements with growers to give farmers the confidence to grow this perennial crop, invest in much-needed technology, varieties and automation.
- Supermarkets to put action behind their words of support for British farming with in-store and online merchandising that celebrates our wonderful fruit.

The BAPL data is not all bad news. Several supermarkets have undertaken excellent promotional work to celebrate the start of the current British apple season. This has included TV advertising by Lidl, print ads and social media farmer profiles by Waitrose and an email campaign, point-of-sale and social media posts by Marks & Spencer.

The promotional support for British apples has resulted in excellent October British apple sales results for some supermarkets, as reported by BAPL in November. Lidl in particular significantly outperformed its market share, selling more than any other supermarket in October (3,030 tonnes). Unfortunately, a number of UK supermarkets have been slower to get behind British apples this season and have instead been importing apples from overseas at a time when UK fruit is in plentiful supply.

British Growers Insights data revealed that in the seven-week period from 2nd October 2023 to 13th November 2023, just 16.7% of the Gala apple packs (SKUs) on shelf in Tesco were British and only 20% of Asda apple packs were British. That compares to 100% in Marks & Spencer and Lidl, and 82.4% in Waitrose, 77.8% in Sainsbury's.

"It's astounding to our growers that when we have new season British apples that taste great readily available close to home, supermarkets persist in buying from overseas. UK consumers, who want to buy British whenever they can, are being disadvantaged – and so are British apple growers."

Source: [www.hortnews.com](http://www.hortnews.com), 7 November 2023

## Dig deep for Perennial's Christmas donation appeal



**With Christmas just around the corner, Perennial is appealing to the industry to grow wellbeing and support people working in horticulture this season by making a goodwill donation.**

36% more people turned to the charity for help this year. With the winter months and festive season ahead, demand for support is expected to continue to increase.

"We rely on support from people like you to help us be there. Every day people get in contact either for themselves, to help a loved one or on behalf of a colleague," says Perennial's Director of Marketing and Fundraising Anita Bates, stressing that "Whilst this is a time for family and celebration for many, we appreciate that for lots of people – in horticulture and elsewhere – times are difficult and that money may be tight. But, if you can, please donate today."

As the only UK charity helping everyone working in, or retired from, horticulture and their families, there are lots of reasons why people turn to Perennial such as bereavement, the impact of an accident, health issues or a family breakdown. Many also access Perennial's free advice and information online and via their free health & wellbeing and money management tools.

As a reminder of why the charity is here and a way to spread goodwill, you can see and share Perennial's videos on social media inspired by real-life stories, highlighting the different types of help the charity is approached for.

Everyone in the horticultural community can play their part this Christmas. Your support – whatever the amount – will help Perennial to be there for your colleagues and maybe your own friends and family this season and beyond. You can make a difference, big or small, as a one-off or regular gift.

Thank you and from all of us at Perennial we wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Donate at [perennial.org.uk/donate](https://perennial.org.uk/donate)

Source: [www.hortnews.com](https://www.hortnews.com), 8 December 2023



**As British growers continue to feel mounting pressure from soaring energy costs, the NFU has secured a major win after the government announced horticulture businesses will have access to the Industrial Energy Transformation (IETF) Fund**

**to help cut their energy bills.**

The need for greater energy security for the horticulture sector was a key theme during this year's Downing Street Farm to Fork summit and Defra's announcement follows continued NFU lobbying.

NFU President Minette Batters said: "The horticulture sector invests heavily in renewables and energy efficient systems, but sharply rising input costs over the past 18 months, particularly for energy, have put many businesses on a knife edge. We have repeatedly made the case that this is threatening the viability of many crops, including peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, and those with long term storage such as apples and potatoes.

"One of the key outcomes from the Farm to Fork Summit at Downing Street was the need for greater energy security, so we are very pleased that government has responded to our calls to recognise energy intensive horticultural production within future energy price support measures. As we have stated many times, it is critical that all high energy crops are recognised within this announcement, including protected cropping and those with long term storage.

"We are seeking urgent clarification on the eligibility for horticulture businesses and the process by which they can register for the Industrial Energy Transformation (IETF) Fund to help mitigate against high energy costs and provide confidence to grow and invest in future production.

Source: [www.hortnews.com](https://www.hortnews.com), 17 December 2023



**The fruit industry has expressed its sadness following the death of Adrian Scripps, who passed away on 18 November aged 86.**

Adrian was described by one contemporary as a 'giant' in the topfruit sector, whose acumen and skill led an initial farm tenancy 60 years ago to become Tonbridge-based Adrian Scripps Ltd, one of the leading UK fruit growers which today produces around 750 ha of apples, blackcurrants and grapes in Kent.

In a statement the company said, 'It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Mr Adrian Scripps on Saturday 18th of November. He started farming in 1956 and built the foundations of the business as it is today. He was for so many years the energetic driver of the business, an innovator and very much a pioneer within the industry. He will be greatly missed by colleagues, friends and family.'

Company managing director James Simson told the FPJ, "Adrian Scripps was a topfruit pioneer in the UK and a real force behind many industry initiatives over the years."

Source: [www.hortnews.com](https://www.hortnews.com), 29 November 2023

# LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS

Defra confirms 22  
bluetongue cases  
but 'no evidence'  
virus is circulating

**New cases of bluetongue have brought the total number to 22 since the initial outbreak last month, but there is still 'no evidence' the virus is circulating, Defra says.**

However, the UK's chief veterinary officer has urged farmers to remain vigilant for bluetongue serotype 3 after five new cases were confirmed this weekend.

There is currently a wide temporary control zone (TCZ) in Kent following the initial outbreak of the virus in November, the UK's first case since 2007.

Last week, a case of bluetongue was detected in sheep in Norfolk, marking a leap in the virus since it was first detected. There is also a TCZ in Norfolk.

Defra said in a new update: "Following active surveillance in the north-east Kent TCZ, a further 3 cases of bluetongue in cattle have been identified in the Sandwich Bay area from the same herd as the 5 positives confirmed on 15 December.

"All animals will be humanely culled to minimise the risk of onward transmission. The TCZ is not being extended and movement restrictions continue to apply to cattle, sheep and other ruminants in the zone.

"This brings the total number of cases to 22 on 8 different holdings. There is currently still no evidence that bluetongue virus is circulating in Great Britain."

The bluetongue virus is usually transmitted by midge bites and affects cows, goats, sheep and other camelids such as llamas.

Midges are most active between April and November and not all susceptible animals show immediate, or any, signs of contracting the virus.

Impacts on susceptible animals can vary greatly – some show no symptoms or effects at all while for others it can cause productivity issues such as reduced milk yield, while in the most severe cases can be fatal for infected animals.

Christine Middlemiss, the UK's chief veterinary officer, has urged farmers to remain vigilant for bluetongue virus following the latest news.

"Bluetongue does not pose a threat to human health or food safety, but the disease can impact livestock farms, and cause productivity issues," she said.

"This detection is an example of our robust disease surveillance procedures in action and it is also a clear reminder for farmers that the disease remains a threat, despite coming towards the end of the midge

activity season.

"Farmers must remain vigilant and report any suspicions to APHA."

BTV is a notifiable disease. Suspicion of BTV in animals in England must be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency on 03000 200 301.

Farmers in and around the TCZ can also call Ruminant Health & Welfare's (RH&W) bluetongue hotline on 024 7771 0386 for advice.

Bluetongue does not affect people or food safety.

Source: [www.farminguk.com](http://www.farminguk.com), 17 December 2023

## New legislation introduces penalty notices for animal health and welfare offences

- **Penalty notices of up to £5000 could be issued from 1 January 2024 for animal health and welfare offences**
- **Offences includes keeping animals in a poor living environment, overdue TB testing or animal breeders operating without a licence**
- **New legislation adds to existing enforcement measures to protect animals – including criminal prosecution for most serious offences**

New legislation laid yesterday (11 December) will introduce the option to issue fixed penalty notices for a range of animal health and welfare related offences.

The secondary legislation – which has been laid under the Animals (Penalty Notices) Act - follows a [public consultation](#) in which more than 85% of respondents supported the introduction of penalty notices as an enforcement tool.

From 1 January 2024, they will be added to the existing portfolio of enforcement measures, such as warning letters, statutory notices or movement restrictions to protect animals and help ensure animal keepers follow the law.

Owners will face penalties of up to £5,000, and serious animal welfare offences will still be prosecuted.

They could be issued for offences such as animals living in a poor environment, repeated overdue bovine TB testing, breaching of avian influenza housing orders, or animal breeders operating without a license.

Animal health and welfare legislation is paramount in protecting the country from the threat of diseases, which impact our nation's productivity and ability to trade freely, as well as making sure all animals are treated properly at all stages of life.

In cases of non-compliance, enforcement bodies use appropriate enforcement tools to make sure the law is upheld.

*Continued...*



Advice and guidance will remain the primary enforcement tool for early redirection to protect animals from harm. However, the deterrence of penalty notices will provide further protection to animals if this advice and guidance is ignored or proves an insufficient incentive for change.

Animal Welfare and Biosecurity Minister Douglas-Miller said:

“All keepers have a duty of care to protect their animals from harm, as well as adhering to biosecurity rules to protect our nation from devastating diseases.

“I know the majority of animal owners recognise the importance of these rules, but it is vital that tough enforcement steps are taken when those rules are broken.

“I welcome penalty notices as an additional tool for our partners to use to encourage compliance with the law.”

Lee Gingell, RSPCA public affairs manager for local government, said:

“The RSPCA believes fixed penalty notices can be a valuable tool for policing administrative and technical offences related to animals - where welfare isn't seriously compromised, or in situations where firmer enforcement is not required.

“While stronger enforcement action is needed when more serious animal welfare offences occur, the RSPCA welcomes steps that broaden the toolkit of local authorities to promote best practice and

protect animals within their communities.

“It's encouraging to hear that the UK Government will now issue thorough guidance and work with local authorities on these changes - as ensuring Councils are well equipped and competent in the use of these new FPN powers will be key in ensuring they are effective and improve animal welfare.”

A penalty notice gives an individual the opportunity to discharge liability from prosecution for an alleged criminal offence in exchange for a fee and correcting the issue.

Statutory guidance has also been published to help enforcement authorities with the implementation of penalty notices.

Source: [www.farminguk.com](http://www.farminguk.com) 15 November 2023

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# FORAGE

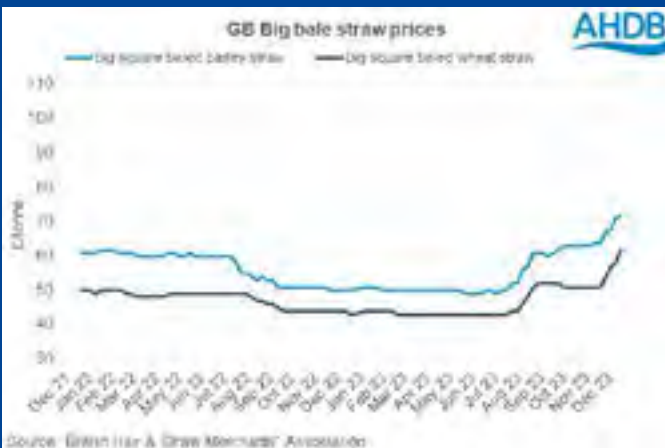


## HAY AND STRAW PRICES

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				
Commodity (see notes)	17/12/2022	10/12/2022	Weekly change	18/12/2022
Big bale hay	85	86	1	75
Big square baled barley straw	72	71	-1	66
Big square baled wheat straw	62	58	-4	42

Source: British Hay & Straw Merchants' Association



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

RAMSAK Forage enquiries via: [karen@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:karen@ramsak.co.uk)

# AHDB: Forage for Knowledge end of year review — 2023

November 2023\*

As we draw Forage for Knowledge to a close on another grazing season, it's time for us to reflect on the year's successes and challenges.

For many, the heart of their operations lies in the growth and quality of their grass. Whether you're a livestock farmer or a dairy farmer, understanding the intricacies of grass growth and quality is crucial for a thriving agricultural enterprise.

In this end-of-season review, we'll delve into the factors that have influenced grass growth and quality in the UK and offer insights for optimising your practices in the coming year.

One of the defining factors in the UK's agricultural landscape is the unpredictable weather. The 2023 season was no exception, with variable weather patterns affecting grass growth.

Farmers across the country faced challenges because of wetter-than-average conditions in some regions and drought-like conditions in others.

These variations influenced the timing and vigour of grass growth, making it essential for farmers to stay vigilant and adapt their management practices to mitigate weather-related challenges.

The season started with higher-than-average grass growth and then followed last year's trend through to mid-May.

Grass growth peaked at 101 kg DM/ha/day, with DM% averaged 17.9, CP% averaged 18.7 and ME was 12 MJ. This was followed by a decline over four weeks to 42 kg DM/ha; during that same period, grass quality started to drop as DM% inclined.

Grass growth figures did not return to the five-year average rates until July time. We then saw growth rates surpass the five-year seasonal average throughout mid-July and August.

The average ME for September and October was back up to 12 MJ/kg of DM, and crude protein was averaging 23%, but DM% averaged 16%. This gave farms a chance to extend their grazing season, but supplementary feed was and is, in some cases, still needed to meet the DM intake requirements and balance nutrient requirements.

So far, November's grass growth has averaged 25 kg DM/ha, similar to last year but still higher than the five-year average. Remember, the grass grown over October and November will be most of the grass available in early spring.

### Looking back to spring 2023

The season started dry and warmer than average. Grass growth figures were looking positive going into April and May.

One of the key drivers for grass growth is sunshine hours, and in March, they were in relatively short supply, particularly in the south. The ME from the samples submitted in March averaged 12.1 MJ/kg of DM.

*Continued...*

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*Continued from page 10...*

At the end of April, we saw an average ME of 12.2 MJ/kg DM; it then began to drop. The weekly average remained below 12 MJ/kg of DM until October. Similarly, we saw crude protein levels decline from March (24.3%) to July (21%).

It has since increased each month, reaching 24.4% at the start of November. This may have been related to the reduced fertiliser usage across the grazing platform during the dry periods in the summer.

Many areas in the southern half of the UK had more than double their average March rainfall, and only in north-west Scotland was rainfall noticeably below average.

April rainfall totals were generally closer to average; it was drier in some northern areas but rather wet in parts of the south and east. May was rather wet in a band from Devon to Norfolk, but it was a very dry month in some other areas.

Mean temperatures for March were equal to the long-term average, and April also saw near-average temperatures generally. Most of May was warmer than average, and the warm start to the season resulted in strong grass growth rates that only began to drop off at the end of May.

June was relatively warm, dry and settled, but unsettled weather came in July and lasted until August. While August was something of an improvement of July, with temperature, rainfall and sunshine nearer average, the weather nonetheless remained mixed.

August brought unseasonably wet and windy weather. While the rainfall pattern was variable, for many areas, this was a rather wet summer overall and recorded as one of the UK's top ten wettest summers.

Reflect and review how your paddocks performed this season

As the end of the season approaches, now is the time to take stock of your grass growth and quality.

The 2023 season, like any other, presented its unique challenges and opportunities.

By reflecting on the influence of weather, grass species, soil health, grazing management and biodiversity, you can make informed decisions to improve the productivity and sustainability of their operations in the seasons to come.

Your commitment to optimising grass growth and quality is an investment in the future success of your farm and the broader agricultural community.

Grass species and varieties play a significant role in determining grass growth and quality. Different grass types offer unique advantages and disadvantages, depending on your specific farming goals.

For instance, perennial ryegrass is known for its rapid regrowth and high-quality forage, making it a popular choice, while meadow fescue and timothy grass are valued for their persistence and drought resistance.

Reflecting on the performance of grass species on your farm this season can help you make informed decisions for the next.

Grass quality is closely tied to soil health and fertility. Soil testing and analysis should be a regular practice on every farm to ensure the right nutrients are available for optimal grass growth.

The end of the season is an excellent time to review soil test results and consider amendments or adjustments in your nutrient management plan for the upcoming season. Balanced soil fertility is essential for maximising grass quality and productivity.

Effective grazing management is a cornerstone of grass growth and quality. Season-long, rotational and adaptive grazing systems all have their place in different farming systems.

Reflect on the grazing strategies you employed this season and assess their impact on grass health. Adjustments in stocking rates, grazing periods and paddock sizes may be necessary to achieve better results in the next season.

Finally, we would like to thank the contributing farmers who submit samples for analysis and submit their grass measurements weekly.

Their commitment enables us to provide our levy payers with the latest regional grass growth and quality figures every week. The value and robustness of this data are strengthened with each contributor's involvement.

This year, we had over 9,000 subscribers: a mixture of dairy, beef and sheep farmers, consultants, researchers and industry members. We hope the information, resource and data provided has helped you capitalise on the cheapest feedstuff available on the farm and drive profitability and sustainable businesses.

**[Visit AHDB Grass for all grass-related tools, services and resources](#)**

**[Visit Forage for Knowledge for all previous articles, case studies and information](#)**

Source: [www.ahdb.org.uk](http://www.ahdb.org.uk),

# FUEL PRICE OVERVIEW

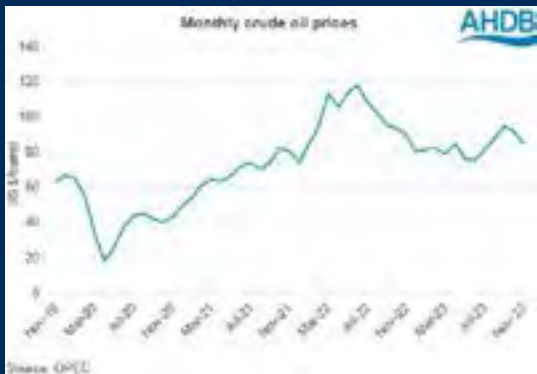
## Monthly

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

Month	US Crude oil (15B Barrels)	US Diesel (15 Barrels)	UK Red Diesel (100L)	UK Diesel (100L)
Nov 23	84.00	69.96	90.24	102.20
Oct 23	81.78	70.82	90.47	102.29
Monthly month change	-2.80	-0.86	-0.23	-0.09
% change	-3.3%	-1.2%	-0.3%	-0.1%
Nov 22	97.80	79.42	114.68	108.22
Year-over change	-13.2%	-12.0%	-21.2%	-5.0%
% change	-13.5%	-13.5%	-18.7%	-4.6%

Source: Refinitiv, EIA, OPEC, OGD

\*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](http://www.ahdb.org.uk)

# FUEL NEWS

Industry body highlights importance of seasonal support scheme for heating oil users

## As the winter weather arrives, UKIFDA highlights the importance of the Cold Weather Priority Scheme (CWP).



The free-to-register CWP scheme ensures that those most vulnerable to the effects of cold weather receive priority service during the winter months.

With an ageing population in mind this winter, the UK and Ireland Fuel Distributors Association (UKIFDA), the trade association for the liquid fuels distribution industry, is pressing for people aged 75 or over who rely on heating oil to sign up for the Cold Weather Priority scheme (CWP) with their local distributors.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the population of those aged 75 and above in the UK is 5.7 million, representing 9% of the total UK population. This number is growing, and it is projected that those over 65 will make up 10% of the population in the next five years.

### Crucial role for distributors

Approximately 1.7 million UK homes rely on liquid fuels for their heating needs. UKIFDA members distribute in excess of 80% of the UK heating oil volume and play a crucial role in ensuring that those living in rural areas, particularly the over 75 and vulnerable groups, have access to heating during the winter months. Lack of heating can lead to severe problems and even pose a risk of death, making it all the more important to ensure this group of customers is supported.

Taking steps to avoid this situation, the CWP scheme, set up by UKIFDA, is designed to identify those most at-risk so that the participating UKIFDA members can prioritise deliveries, especially during cold weather or supply shortages.

Ken Cronin, UKIFDA CEO, comments on this crucial initiative: "With the onset of cold weather, taking care of the most vulnerable members of our society becomes imperative. That's why we urge anyone aged 75 or over to sign up for UKIFDA's Cold Weather Priority scheme with their local distributors. It is entirely free for heating oil customers.

To be included, contact RAMSAK and we can assist with your registration and ensuring our participating fuel providers are aware.

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

Source: [www.fueloilnews.co.uk](http://www.fueloilnews.co.uk), (edited)

30 November 2023

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**SUEZ recycling and recovery UK and Circular Fuels Limited have signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to deliver a sustainable liquid petroleum gas replacement from refuse derived fuel, at Circular Fuel's planned plant at Teesworks, Teesside.**

The agreement is to produce renewable and recycled DME (a low-carbon liquid gas which allows off-grid businesses and households, reliant on LPG, to decarbonise their energy use). It has a low greenhouse gas footprint – reducing emissions by more than 85% over the project lifetime compared to fossil fuels – and is a safe, cost-effective and clean-burning fuel. It can also achieve over 100% emissions savings when carbon capture is used, helping the UK to achieve its 2050 net zero target.

SUEZ's role in the Circular Fuels-led project is envisaged to be threefold:

Jointly design and operate the pre-treatment process to produce a refuse derived fuel.

Provide operation and maintenance services for the plant that will produce over 50,000 tonnes of DME, a liquid petroleum gas (LPG) replacement fuel.

Supply some of the c.250,000 tonnes of RDF feedstock required each year to produce over 50,000 tonnes of low-carbon LPG replacement, providing over 5% of UK's LPG demand.

The developer of the plant, Circular Fuels, sees advanced gasification specialists KEW Technology, join forces with Dimeta (a joint venture comprising the two largest global liquid petroleum gas producers).

The industrial scale plant will deploy KEW's modular advanced gasification units at the scale of the existing operational facility, KEW's Sustainable Energy Centre (SEC), and RenFuD's syngas-to-DME synthesis technology.

Feedstock for the plant will come from household and commercial sources. The non-recyclable waste will go through a pre-treatment process to create a refuse derived fuel to feed the advanced gasification process to produce a syngas. This is then synthesised into DME. This sustainable LPG replacement will be supplied at commercial scale from the Teesworks plant as an alternative fuel for the LPG Industry and will contribute towards the sector's ambition to be 100% renewable by 2040.

John Scanlon, Chief Executive Officer at SUEZ recycling and recovery UK, said: "We're looking forward to deploying SUEZ's extensive expertise in energy recovery to work with Circular Fuels as it scales up production of its LPG replacement fuel for households and businesses. Not only will this offer a fossil fuel alternative for off-grid households and businesses, it provides SUEZ's customers with an innovative solution that reduces the carbon impact of managing their residual waste."

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Source: [www.fueloilnews.co.uk](http://www.fueloilnews.co.uk), 4 December 2023

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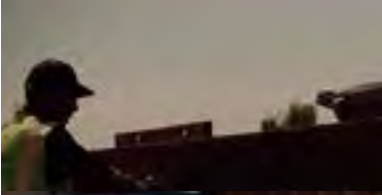
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Prevent soil and water pollution by containing harmful used oil.

**Compliance with Regulations:**

Help businesses adhere to strict regulations on hazardous material disposal.

**Safety:**

Minimize fire hazards by storing flammable used oil in specially designed tanks.

**Recycling and Reuse:**

Facilitate the collection and recycling of used oil.

**Cost-Effective Waste Management:**

Provides a cost-effective solution for businesses through proper storage and disposal.

**Durability and Maintenance:**

Durable, low-maintenance plastic waste oil tanks, resistant to corrosion and adverse weather conditions.

Overall, our Atlantis plastic waste oil tanks play a crucial role in environmental protection, safety, and compliance with waste management regulations, while also contributing to recycling efforts and sustainable practices.

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# PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS



## CRAWFORDS - Unveiling the MF 9S Series: Massey Ferguson's Latest Powerhouse

Massey Ferguson, a global leader in agricultural solutions and a brand under AGCO (NYSE: AGCO), introduces the much-anticipated MF 9S Series. This lineup comprises six robust models, ranging from 285hp to 425hp, designed to deliver unparalleled power, comfort, control, and automation to the farming industry.

### A Flagship for the 'New Tractor Era'

Thierry Lhotte, Vice President & Managing Director of Massey Ferguson, Europe & Middle East, declares, "The MF 9S is the new flagship for Massey Ferguson's straightforward, dependable, and connected 'New Tractor Era.'" This release follows the success of the MF 8S, marking the culmination of seven years of intensive global customer research, inspiring the development of the MF 5S, MF 6S, and MF 7S Series, all designed with and for farmers.

### Evolutionary Design and Features

Jérôme Aubrion, Director of Marketing at Massey Ferguson, Europe & Middle East, highlights the MF 9S tractors' enhanced user experience, innovative technology, and the distinction of being the first to feature the new MF logo. "The MF 9S tractors combine outstanding performance and reliability with an enhanced user experience and innovative technology, making them a true all-rounder," he states.

### Unmatched Benefits of the MF 9S Series

#### Power and Performance

- The MF 9S Series offers a wide range of powerful large-frame tractors, with capacities ranging from 285hp to 425hp.
- Unique MF Protect-U design minimises vibrations, improves visibility, and reduces in-cab noise levels to just 69dBa.

#### Comfort and Control

- Spacious 3.4m<sup>3</sup> cab with 6.6m<sup>2</sup> of glass area for best-in-class visibility.
- New wiper covering 72% of the area keeps the glass clear.
- Automation options include MF AutoTurn, AutoHeadland, and TIM ISOBUS Tractor Implement Management.

### Fuel Efficiency and Sustainability

- Central Tyre Inflation System (CTIS) option reduces compaction and fuel consumption.
- Economical 8.4-litre, six-cylinder AGCO Power engine with Stage V emission control.

### Cutting-Edge Technology and Automation

The MF 9S Series comes equipped for smart farming with MF Guide and MF Connect telemetry as standard. The tractors feature MF AutoTurn, AutoHeadland, and TIM ISOBUS Tractor Implement Management options for enhanced automation, productivity, and accuracy.

### Protecting Soil and Reducing Fuel Consumption

Massey Ferguson introduces the Central Tyre Inflation System (CTIS) as an option for all MF 9S models. This system, controlled through advanced terminals, adjusts tire pressure to reduce compaction, optimise traction, and cut fuel consumption by 10% to 15%.

### Unmatched Comfort and Visibility

- The Protect-U engine and cab installation ensure a quiet and comfortable environment.
- The 3.4m<sup>3</sup> cab with a 69dBa noise level, extensive storage, and a powerful heating and demisting system create an ideal workspace.
- 6.6m<sup>2</sup> total glazed area provides unrivalled visibility, and a new advanced 360° LED lighting configuration ensures optimal visibility during nighttime operations.

### Innovative Operation and Automation

- Datatronic 5 touchscreen terminal and Fieldstar 5 extended screen option offer intuitive operation.
- MF AutoTurn and AutoHeadland options automate steering and headland sequences.
- Tractor Implement Management (TIM) as an option for ultimate automation.

### Unmatched Performance and Versatility

- Dyna-VT continuously variable transmission fitted as standard.
- High-flow, load-sensing hydraulics offering up to 400 litres/min at 1,850 rpm.
- 3.1m wheelbase for stability and agility.
- Low weight for enhanced power-to-weight ratio, ballastable up to 18,500kg.
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### Customise Your MF 9S Experience with MF By You

a factory-fit service enabling owners to specify additions to boost productivity, comfort, performance, and versatility.

Experience the Future of Agriculture with Crawfords and the MF 9S Series.

Discover a new era of farming with the revolutionary MF 9S Series by Massey Ferguson. [Contact Crawfords](#) today to explore the latest in power, comfort, and connectivity for your agricultural operations.

www.rwcrawford.co.uk, 7 December 2023

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[enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk) to book.



# FGS PLANT

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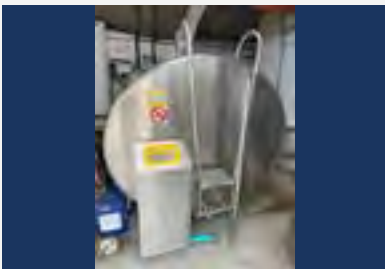
Constructionline  
 Gold Member

# MACHINERY LIST FOR SALE & WANTED

## ADVERTISING COSTS

All adverts for used machinery/equipment listed for sale and wanted are subject to an admin fee of £20 for 2 months in the newsletter, which includes an initial 2 weekly circular emails and a Facebook post. For items over £500, commission is applied at 1.5% (up to a maximum of £150) on the sale of your listing via RAMSAK.

**Please ensure you advise us if you have sold/purchased an item through us (or elsewhere) to help avoid outdated adverts, saving us all time and charges being made.**



**£2,000**

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

Location: BN8 10/23



**£700**

**STOCK BRICKS**

1100 second hand stock bricks. Located Kent/SE London border.

Location: BR8 12/23



**£7,500**

**RANGE ROVER SPORT**

- 2010
- 3 litre
- 113,500 miles
- MOT until Aug '23

Serviced and MOT'd in August and not used since

10/23



**£4,500 +VAT**

**QUAD**

2021 Honda Quad ATV TX420 FM1 petrol 4wd auto gears Datatag registered.

Location: TN3 9/23

**500 LORRY LOADS OF ROAD PLANINGS AVAILABLE IN THE NEW YEAR COMING OUT OF NORTH KENT**

PLEASE [CONTACT RAMSAK](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

Location: North Kent 12/23



**£1,600 +VAT**

**SNOW PLOUGH**

SNOW PLOUGH, to fit Landrover Defender. 8' Bunce . Ex MOD. Un-used.

Location: DA3 10/23



**£1,500**

**IFOR WILLIAMS 14 FT FLATBED TRAILER**

Location: BN26 10/23

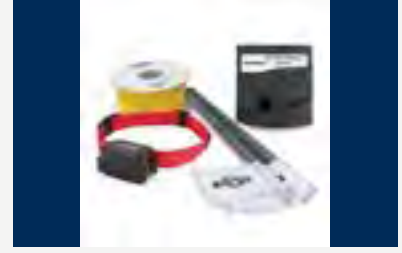


**£29,995 +VAT**

**TRACTOR**

Deutz Fahr 5125 4WD Tractor with Stoll 30.6 Loader 5200 Hrs. Photos and Video available.

Location: TN19 10/23



**£OFFERS**

**PetSafe Stubborn Dog In Ground Invisible Fence & Collar Radio Receiver and Extra Wire & Flags (300m total)**

NEW/UNUSED Contact Lynsey for more info [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk)

Location: ME17

A RAMSAK member has the following available surplus to requirements in TN27 following a build:

**GENIE LIFT - GR15 MASTER**  
6.52 metre working height, 75cm. Year 2004. 0 turning radius, 557. Ideal for barn conversion work, installation, solar panel installation, roof guttering. Very safe and stable. Works on a concrete base.

**£2500.00 plus £100 ONO**



**OAK & TIMBER & VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS AVAILABLE**

Lots of new Oak beams.  
Lots of old Oak beams.  
Various sizes of soft wood timber.  
Large pack of wood wool insulation.  
Some Celotex.  
Underfloor heating pipe.

**£OFFERS**

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE - PHOTOS AND LOCATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

- 3 sets aluminium cavallis (horse jumps) unused POA
- 9T FEED HOPPER. Very good condition Located BN8 (10/23) £2,500
- Indian Sandstone Patio Slabs (Grey) 600x900 £22.99 per m2
- 3 sets aluminium cavalletis (horse jumps) unused POA
- 3m cleft chestnut rails (reclaimed) £40 for bundle of 10
- BUCKET - Strimech x bucket with cone and pin fixing. Suitable for repair POA
- Cotswold tank wash auto cleaning system. £500
- POULTRY PANELS 80 to 100 panels for poultry wired up and ready for construction. Located TN27.
- 8 Black Mild Steel Flat Bars - 40mm x 5mm x 2555mm. Weight approx 4kg each. Un-used. Left over from a project. Cost £120 but any sensible offers considered. OFFERS
- MOUNTED SPRAYER Blanchard 800 litre tractor mounted sprayer. Excellent condition. Located TN19. £995 +VAT
- PHOTOCOPIER Canon Image Runner Advance. Very low usage. £250
- HEAVY DUTY EXTRA LONG 1.5M PALLET FORKS C/W JCB TELEHANDLER FITTINGS £500 +VAT
- SNOW PLOUGH, to fit Landrover Defender. 8' Bunce . Ex MOD. Un-used. £1,600 +VAT
- Road barriers £10 each +VAT
- Reclaimed Kent Peg Tiles, Orange tinge £1 each
- 3m cleft chestnut rails (reclaimed) £40 for bundle of 10
- Block Paving 300 x 150 Light Grey (new) £39.70 per m2 + VAT
- Reclaimed cleaned and palletised bricks. Several thousand available Various colours from £1.50 each + VAT



# WANTED

We have members looking for the following items. Please contact us if you have anything available, with information, price and photograph to: [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk)

- Generator 30-40 kVA electric start silent generator required by RAMSAK member.
- Power harrow and/or rotovator required by a RAMSAK member; either would need to be 1.2-1.4m wide.
- Laddingford [Newman] engineering single leg subsoiler with PTO drive. Do you have one lying around? Call us!
- Portacabins/Caravans

## FOR SALE - SECOND HAND PRESSURE WASHERS

### [Karcher PC 100/M1](#)

£718.80 inc. VAT

SECOND HAND, Karcher PC 100/M1, a new innovative solution for removing oil, grease, soot, etc. from all kinds of parts. A water based non-toxic, PH neutral cleaning detergent without solvents is used to achieve excellent cleaning results. Organic particles like oil, lubricant and other greases from the parts biologically degenerate.

### [Nilfisk MC 8P 180/2100](#)

£1400 +VAT

SECOND HAND High-flow Nilfisk MC 8P pressure washer for tough routine work. The high power premium class line – combining high pressure and high water flow levels for routine cleaning in agriculture, transport or food industries. The MC 8P is a machine with high water flow – quick to install, easy to move around and comfortable to use.

### [Karcher BR 75/140 ride on scrubber dryer](#) POA

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

### [Nilfisk MC 6P-170/1600 cold pressure washer](#)

£1,200 inc. VAT

The MC 6P range of cold water pressure washers brings together an unbeatable working life and durability, high cleaning performance and optimal ergonomics for the most demanding heavy duty cleaning tasks for industry, agriculture, shipping, transport sector and food industry.

The MC 6P is equipped with the NA6 wobble disc pump with 4 ceramic pistons and robust construction optimised for intense use greater than 5 hours per day. The NA6 pump is inspired by our longest lasting and renowned pump and offers unbeatable lifetime.

### [V Tuf Torrent 3](#)

£660 inc VAT

Prepare to transform your cleaning routine with the remarkable V-TUF Torrent 3. This versatile cleaning powerhouse has undergone meticulous engineering to completely redefine the concept of portable cleaning. Featuring an 'easy-pull' frame, a cutting-edge 15HP engine, an oversized pump, and comprehensive thermal protection, the Torrent 3 is tailored to effortlessly tackle demanding tasks with exceptional ease and efficiency.

### [PC 15/250 petrol pressure washer](#) £900 inc VAT

Second hand PC 15/250 petrol pressure washer.

A true embodiment of versatility. This powerhouse is designed to excel heavy-duty, industrial, and commercial cleaning applications, making it your go-to solution for various cleaning needs.

The heart of this exceptional machine lies in its reliable Honda GX engine. Which in turn will ensure unwavering performance and durability. It is equipped with a 2:1 gearbox and a 1450 RPM Inter pump, the pressure washer is built to endure and deliver top-notch results.

**All of these machines have been fully tested by engineers. Refurbished machines offer excellent value for money and comes complete with a three-month warranty. Please click on the blue title for links to more information and photographs. Contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) for info.**



Discover our exclusive  
Economy Range



Offers available until Thursday the 21st of  
December 2023.

Economy Double Mobile Stables – (7.2m x 3.6m) -  
£5,200 incl VAT

Economy Triple Mobile Stables – (10.8m x 3.6m) -  
£7,995 incl VAT

Economy Single Field Shelter – (3.6m x 3.6m) -  
£2,785 incl VAT

Economy Small Double Field Shelter – (5.4m x  
3.6m) - £3,750 incl VAT

Economy Double Field Shelter – (7.2m x 3.6m) -  
£4,200 incl VAT

Next available installation dates: February 2024

Quotations Valid until 21/12/23 @12pm. Prices include delivery and  
install if you are located within 40 miles of TN21 9HJ

\*Please be aware that our economy specification is not  
**designed to withstand heavy towing\***

Discover more about this exclusive offer  
on our website: [https://www.nfftd.co.uk/  
economysheltersstables](https://www.nfftd.co.uk/economysheltersstables)

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

## JOBS, LIVESTOCK, PROPERTY

### SITUATIONS VACANT AND WANTED

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

### HOLIDAY RENTAL - IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY



HOP HOUSE, OAD STREET NR SITTINGBOURNE  
- IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY FOR PERSONAL  
BOOKINGS

Thinking of a getaway in rural Kent for a  
celebration, family anniversary or birthday

or just for time to relax with friends? “Hop  
House” accepts up to 14 people on a self-  
catering basis  
Please contact 07709 425298 for full details for  
a restful stay. Property also for sale, please see  
property section.

### PROPERTY & LAND



FOR SALE - WOODGATE FARM OAST, OAD  
STREET, NR. SITTINGBOURNE

OFFERS OVER £ 1,575,000

GDV £ 3m; Up to 25% ROI; Currently used as 4  
bedroom own residence, separate 7 ensuite  
bedroom guest accommodation and self-  
contained commercial office; Opportunity to  
convert into flats or holiday lets; Subject to  
change of use application easy conversion to 2  
substantial residential dwellings.

Full details available on Rightmove [HERE](#)

Continued...



# CLASSIFIED ADVERTS CONTINUED...

## PROPERTY & LAND cont'd...

### BUILDING & YARD REQUIRED - KENT

A RAMSAK member currently based in South East Maidstone is looking to move location to somewhere closer to the M20 corridor between Wrotham and Hollingbourne. Building circa 5-6000 sqft required, with yard space and parking for approximately 20 vehicles. They are happy to carry out building works and modifications (i.e forming of offices) Preferably to purchase or would consider renting.

Contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) for info. 11/23

### FLAT TO RENT - TONBRIDGE AREA (TN11)

Unfurnished flat for rent on farm in Shipbourne, near Tonbridge available from 1st December (or thereabouts) for six months. Could accommodate two people. £725 per month plus utility bills.

Please ring 07771 507310 for further details. 11/23

### RESIDENTIAL FLAT TO RENT - ASHFORD AREA

1 bedroom residential flat available in working commercial yard in Ashford area. £700 pcm including services & rates, but excluding telephone & internet.



Please contact [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk) for more information.

### OAST AND YARD TO RENT - RYE, TN31 (IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY)

Converted Oast formerly used as a paint shop and storage and yard for a hoarding company, which is now quitting... due to having outgrown the site.

The Oast is on 3 floors - ground floor 1,444 sq ft, first floor 900 sq ft plus loo and kitchen, second floor 727 sq ft which has 2 Offices and storage area. Total area 3,071 sq ft.

Outside is a good size L shaped yard with added storage both open and secure.

The property has security gates as does the whole farm.

There is added storage available if necessary 3 phase electricity

Fibre optic to be installed.

The unit is on a working farm with a residential element and another commercial site.

This property is available to lease immediately. Please contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) for more information.

### 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](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk) for more information. 11/23

### SHEEP KEEP WANTED

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](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk) for more details

## OTHER

### WELL ROTTED HORSE MANURE WANTED

Collected using 8 wheel grab lorries. Contact RAMSAK on [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto: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

## CHALK AVAILABLE

Chalk available coming out of the Medway area.

Please let us know if you are interested:

[enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto: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.

Additional charges apply to non-members.

Please contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) to place your advert.

# NEW MEMBER FEATURE



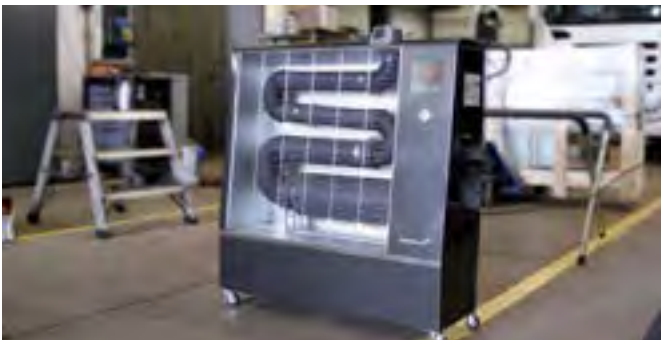
## NEW RAMSAK MEMBER - Autoquip

### About Autoquip

“Established in 1968, Autoquip Garage Equipment is a family run company based in Canterbury, Kent currently in its 3rd generation, specializing in workshop equipment such as vehicle lifts i.e. Scissor lifts, 2 Post Lifts, tractor lifts and 4 Post Lifts through to standard MOT Equipment. Autoquip is the obvious choice for all your Garage Equipment being local and family business to its core. Smaller parts of workshop equipment such as specialist hand tools, heating, diagnostics, wheel alignment, air conditioning machines, tyre changers, wheel balancers, presses, benches, cleaning equipment, brake testers, jacking beams are also catered for. We also offer a vast range of Commercial Equipment for truck workshops and everything in between!”

### THIS MONTH'S FEATURED PRODUCT OFFERS FOR RAMSAK MEMBERS!

**BIOFUEL/HVO/RED DIESEL OR WHITE DIESEL HEATERS** – available in small, medium, and large!



Special offer to RAMSAK members - FREE GIFT with your order (Medium sized pictured).

### AIRREX BATTERY-POWERED FUEL TRANSFER PUMP

A battery-powered fuel transfer pump with an automatic stop function. With this pump, it is very easy to transfer fuel from one canister to another.



The pump is able to transfer about 4000 litres of liquid with two D-series (LR20) batteries and is suitable for transferring petrol, diesel, water (not drinking water) and other light liquids.

The suction pipe of the device is injected into the container where the fuel is to be sucked and the end of the filling hose into the tank where the fuel is to be moved. The pump is then started from the circuit breaker and the pump starts automatic operation. The pump stops automatically when the sensor in the filling hose detects that the level of the fuel tank to be filled is sufficiently increased.

RRP £40 + vat + carriage, but discount available for RAMSAK members.

**TEXA AGRICULTURAL DIAGNOSTICS** – a diagnostic kit that will plug into all makes of agricultural vehicles, combines, tractors and industrial engines



Contact Lucy Day now for more information, a quote or to order on [lucy@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lucy@ramsak.co.uk)



## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RAMSAK

- ACCOUNTANTS
- SOLICITORS
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- INSURANCE SERVICES
- FINANCIAL ADVICE
- LAND AGENTS
- ENERGY CONSULTANTS
- IT SOFTWARE
- TRAINING SERVICES & MORE!

Helping our members manage, support and grow their business is at the heart of your co-operative and we are able to cover a diverse array of professions from legal services to accountancy, land agents to energy consultancy, insurance advisors to training bodies.

**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!**



### KRESTON REEVES: Looking to 2024

As I reflect on 2023, it is impossible to do so without acknowledging the continued economic and political uncertainty, the cost-of-living crisis, high inflation and conflict in the Middle East and Europe. The past 12 months have carried the echoes of 2022 and if there is one thing that has been consistent, it is change.

Despite the many challenges, we end the year with a more positive outlook and economic picture emerging. We have experienced so much change recently that we have grown used to it – we have adapted to be much more adaptable.

Inflation, historically still high, has fallen and is expected to continue to do so. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales in its latest business confidence survey points to an improving and upward trend, albeit from a low point.

It is perhaps the promise of change that is refiring optimism.

In 2024, 4.2 billion people across 70 countries will elect new governments. Technology, and particularly the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI), brings doubt but also the promise of efficiency and opportunity. Businesses and people continue to

embrace and prioritise purpose, adopting economic and environmentally sustainable principles.

There are three areas that I believe we need to prioritise in 2024: a focus on customers and clients, greater efficiencies and engagement with people.

#### **Customer is king**

I firmly believe that 2024 will see the customer or client at the front and centre of everything we do. Every one of us is, after all, a customer in one way or another, and what we expect, want and need will dominate the year ahead.

With almost half of the world's population electing new governments, including our own, politicians will be looking for our custom. We will be asked to consider policies that support our individual needs, those of the economy and our country's role on the world stage.

At a more personal level, we will look for products and services that share our values and, importantly, offer value for money. Whilst we crave and embrace new experiences and new technology, the human touch will become more widely valued. Products and services that combine AI with a human experience will stand apart from faceless algorithms.

For businesses, this means being on top of customer demands and requirements with greater efficiency in delivery. Businesses that talk and listen to their customers, and more importantly act on that information, will find the glue that keeps them engaged and loyal.

#### **Efficiency... but not at any price**

Business efficiency has always been front and centre for leadership teams, and that will be under greater scrutiny in 2024 and beyond. It is not an understatement to say that AI and the automation it will power will change business operations permanently.

The data that AI provides will enable businesses to make smarter decisions more quickly. There are, however, challenges that will need to be addressed. How AI algorithms reach decisions will need to be closely monitored to avoid allegations of bias, abuse of data or copyright.

Transparency in decision-making will be important and valued, and it is the continued human touch that will provide those reassurances.

Striving to be more efficient will have a wider impact. The communities in which we live and work will change as retailers face accelerated changing shopping habits. Many high streets will need to be reimagined and businesses will need to focus on how they can develop their offering online, in the metaverse and through immersive experiences.

Organisations need to embrace the fact that our customers and people expect us to be more efficient. Not only to be price competitive but also to demonstrate forward thinking.

And then there is the impact AI will have on jobs. Whilst its immediate impact is almost certainly overstated, robot accountants, lawyers and bankers, to name a few, are already informing and making

*Continued...*

decisions based on the data they hold. This will accelerate. The demand for those who can interpret and personalise that data will increase too.

I firmly believe, however, that the rise of AI-led efficiency will create the need for a more human-centric experience, with process simplified by technology. Smart business will use the time it gives back to them to add greater value for customers. That is to be welcomed.

### **The power of people**

Businesses will continue to battle to attract the very best talent and retain employees. So too will they compete for customer or client spend. Increasingly, both will expect their voices to be heard.

The way people work has changed and continues to do so. Employers are requiring a reluctant workforce to spend more time in office environments and for good reason: clients and customers benefit and so do employees through social interaction and learning and development. But people truly value the greater work-life balance that has been created for many following the pandemic. We all need to find a compromise that works best for all.

There will be the need to create an environment that attracts those people who will help your business grow. Those businesses that cannot compete on salary alone will need to look to other measures. We recognise, however, that in some business sectors that is not always possible. Here, businesses will need to engage with their employees in other ways. Meaningful conversations where employers and employees speak and listen, and then act, will be a good place to start.

Businesses with a clear purpose, where people and the planet are valued, will hold an advantage.

Talking of purpose, I was in Dubai at the Kreston Global World Conference during COP28 in early December and it once again reminds us that business

efficiency cannot be at the expense of our planet. The first global stocktake since honouring the 2015 agreement by 196 parties has not only helped lead to a roadmap to accelerate climate action but also over \$186m being pledged to build momentum to protect and restore nature.

In March 2023, Kreston Reeves achieved B Corp status, joining a growing community of more than 6,000 businesses from 89 countries. Whilst B Corp may not be suitable for everyone, every business and individual can and should take responsibility for the impact it has on the planet and the communities in which we all live and work.

### **Embrace the new year**

There is no doubt that 2024 will bring its challenges, and we can in times of uncertainty all too easily focus on what divides us forgetting that which unites us. In the season of hope, we should remind ourselves that there is a lot that brings us together. They are often very personal experiences, but also our interaction with neighbours, colleagues and friends. Sometimes they can be the very biggest cultural or sporting events. The celebration of women's football with the Women's World Cup in July and August and the coronation of King Charles are proof of that. The 2024 Olympic Games in Paris in July will unite the world again in sporting competition.

In an uncertain world that often appears ever more polarised, we can rely on the certainty and tradition of the Olympic games to bring the world together every four years. Such events remind us of our humanity and that whatever challenges come our way in 2024, we will all be facing them together.

We should remember and celebrate that throughout 2024.

Everyone at Kreston Reeves wishes you a great festive break and a happy and healthy new year!

*Source: [www.krestonreeves.com](http://www.krestonreeves.com), 12 December 2023*

## CONTACT THE RAMSAK TEAM:

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Phone: **01622 815356 / Mobile: 07776 302847**  
E-mail: [lucy@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lucy@ramsak.co.uk)

### **LYNSEY DENNESS MARKETING MANAGER & CREATIVE GENIUS**

Phone: **01622 815356**  
E-mail: [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk)

### **TIERNEY BRADBURY ACCOUNTS**

Phone: **01622 815356**  
E-mail: [tierney@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:tierney@ramsak.co.uk)

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Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent  
ME18 5PZ

Telephone: 01622 815356

