

JANUARY 2024

NEWSLETTER



Nearly a fifth of farmers invested or planned to invest in agri-tech in 2023, up from 13% the previous year, new research says.

However, investment in and uptake of farm technology continues to be cautious, with 62% of farmers still to consider it.

Barriers could include financial, lack of knowledge about the technology or confidence to try something new, NFU Mutual explains.

The perception that agri-tech is only suitable for larger commercial farms may be another blocker.

To help farmers and rural businesses adopt agri-tech, NFU Mutual has set up a [new website offering guidance](#).

It says low-cost accessible agri-tech, such as CCTV, immobilisers, weather sensors and RFID Eartags, can also make a difference to productivity and efficiency.

The website comes as Defra Secretary Steve Barclay urged farmers to uptake readily available technology at the Oxford Farming Conference on 4 January.

Charlie Yorke, farming propositions manager at NFU Mutual, said farmers were increasingly leveraging digital solutions to optimise their operations.

However, a large proportion of farmers were still hesitant investing in agri-tech due to a number of factors.

“Although it may sound daunting, the adoption of agri-tech doesn’t need to be resource intensive or expensive,” Mr Yorke said.

“While some large farms have invested in complex and large-scale agri-tech such as self-driving vehicles, alternative fuels and data driven sensors, it is important to remember agri-tech can be implemented at any scale, large or small.

“Simpler technologies such as gate sensors, RFID Eartags or the integration of an online data system to assist with farm administration duties, are all forms of agri-tech.

“There are plenty of low-cost innovations which could benefit your farm, making them safer, more secure and more efficient.”

www.farminguk.com 15 January 2024

SECOND ROUND OF DEFRA'S £74M SLURRY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT SOON CLOSES

Defra's £74m grant to help farmers invest in improved slurry infrastructure to tackle water pollution and improve air quality soon closes for applications.

Applications for the second round of the slurry infrastructure grant opened in November, with the deadline to apply closing on Wednesday (17 January).

Farmers can apply for grants of £25,000 to £250,000 to replace, expand, build extra and cover slurry stores, and fund equipment such as separators, reception pits and agitators.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

FUEL NEWS: CERTAS ENERGY named Alternative Fuel Provider of the Year for 2023, **NEW ERA - FuelBox:** the success story of New Era Fuel's sustainable dispensing solution **Pages 15-16**

AGRISOUTH ARABLE NEWS: AHDB - MISCANTHUS: The profitable solution for flood-prone fields, **NIAB: Trish Malarkey** joins NIAB Board, Growers reminded to have their say on digital grain passports **Pages 7-8**

PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS: Engine firm provides heart of autonomous solution & more **Pages 19-23**



LIVESTOCK POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS: Over 50 bluetongue cases as farmers hold 'urgent' meeting, NPA calls for tougher illegal meat import rules after 'deeply worrying' Dover seizures & more... **Pages 12-14**



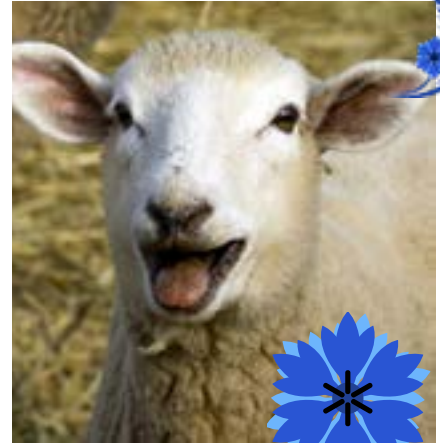
HORTICULTURE NEWS: New report warns horticulture growth is under threat, SFI will provide an income of £45 per hectare to those taking an IPM approach & more... **Pages 9-10**

CONTENTS

- FARM SAFETY: Agricultural vehicle users urged to comply with lighting rules.....3
- RABI: Winter fuel grant worth £400 soon launches for struggling farmers.....3
- FERTILISER: Farmers told to use urea fertiliser inhibitors to avoid new restrictions.....4
- FARM SAFETY Who's responsible for managing health and safety in forestry?5
- RAMSAK MEMBER FEATURE NPC TREE SURGERY Specialists in Hazardous Tree Removal.....6
- PUBLIC PATHS AND THE COUNTRYSIDE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY Landowners' And Managers' Rights And Responsibilities.....6
- ARABLE NEWS.....7-8
- HORTICULTURE NEWS.....9-10
- FORAGE.....11
- LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS12-14
- FUEL NEWS.....15-16
- WORKSHOP, YARD & MAINTENANCE.....17-18
- PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS, Suppliers, hire19-23
- Machinery/Equipment List For Sale & Wanted.....24-27
- Classified Adverts.....27-28
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, KRESTON REEVES: Will 2024 herald much optimision?.....29
- EVENTS: KRESTON REEVES - Spring Budget 2024 Question Time Webinar, THE BIG CAT SANCTUARY - 2024 Open Days launched.



BLEATINGS FROM RAMSAK HQ... 2024 STARTERS!



Dear Reader

Well it's January again and a chilly one at that!

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

Please place your fuel and kerosene orders within plenty of time, there may be delays due to increased demand during the cold snap.

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. Please also ensure that we have email addresses for all members of staff that should be receiving Newsletters and email updates. Let Lynsey know if you need anyone added to the circlar list.

As always we are 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

RAMSAK
FARMING & RURAL CO-OPERATIVE
Since 1996

AT RAMSAK WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

OUR AGRICULTURAL AND VITICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE IS THE EXTENSION TO YOUR FARM OFFICE... WE SHOP AROUND FOR YOU TO GET YOU THE BEST DEALS WITH GROUP PURCHASING POWER!
CALL OR EMAIL US NOW TO SEE HOW WE CAN HELP SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY!

Tel: 01622 815356
email: enquiries@ramsak.co.uk
www.ramsak.co.uk



FARM SAFETY: Agricultural vehicle users urged to comply with lighting rules

During the long, dark nights of winter, the Agricultural Engineers Association is urging all users of agricultural vehicles to ensure that they understand the rules around vehicle lighting and that their vehicles comply with them every time they take them on the road. They are also contacting manufacturers and dealers of agricultural vehicles to ensure that any Amber Warning Beacons fitted on the vehicles they manufacture, sell or service meet the requirements of the legislation.

Where they are required, Amber Warning Beacons are a useful aid to warn other road users of approaching hazards, but agricultural vehicles are increasingly being fitted with inappropriate unidirectional, amber flashing lights. These only emit light in one direction and are not permitted on the road under the vehicle lighting regulations, although they can be used off road.

As well as not being legal, unidirectional flashing amber lights can be dangerous due to potential confusion with and/or distraction from direction indicators. They are often brighter than the direction indicators and are sometimes fitted at a similar level. This can make it difficult for other drivers to see the direction indicators. Confusion of that kind has been a contributing factor in at least one fatal accident involving an agricultural vehicle.

RABI: Winter fuel grant worth £400 soon launches for struggling farmers

A fuel grant worth £400 per household will soon launch for farmers facing financial difficulties this winter.

RABI's winter fuel grant will launch for applications on 22 January to help with increasing heating costs.

The grant is available to households whose main source of employment comes from farming, including farm workers.

It is also open to non-working farming people that have farmed for less than two years.

"We understand the resilience of the farming community, being out in all weather and

So what exactly are the requirements for the installation & use of Amber Warning Beacons on agricultural vehicles?

When should they be used?

At least one warning beacon must be installed & used:

- On any 'slow' motor vehicle (max speed \leq 25 mph) or trailer drawn by it, when used on an unrestricted dual-carriageway road.

Note: The 'motor vehicle' must have four or more wheels

Amber warning beacons may also be used in the following circumstances, which often apply to agricultural vehicles:

- By any vehicle being used in connection with the escort of any vehicle, whilst travelling at a speed of \leq 25 mph
- When it's necessary or desirable to warn persons of the presence of the vehicle or a hazard on the road.

How should they be installed and operate?

Amber warning beacons must:

- Be mounted at least 1200 mm above the ground
- Be capable of emitting either a flashing or rotating beam of light throughout 360° in the horizontal plane. Unidirectional flashing amber warning lamps are NOT legal
- Emit light between 60 & 240 times per minute. The duration of the flashes and the intervals between them must be constant
- Be located so the light from at least one beacon is visible from any point around the vehicle or the (tractor-trailer-trailed implement) combination from a 'reasonable' distance.

Source: www.farming.co.uk, 20 December 2023

temperatures," a charity spokesperson said.

"This winter, through no fault of their own, many farming people face having no respite from the cold due to the ramifications of the cost-of-living crisis.

"RABI wants to support farming people facing financial difficulties with a contribution towards their winter fuel bills."

There are 625 grants available. RABI says this is a capped offer and once all the grants have been awarded, it will be closing the online application portal.

Applications are open from Monday 22 January 2024 for farmers living in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Source: www.farming.uk.com, 16 January 2024

FERTILISER Farmers told to use urea fertiliser inhibitors to avoid new restrictions

Farmers must use urea fertiliser inhibitors this spring to avoid new government restrictions, the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) has warned.

The agri-supply trade association said farmers preparing for the busy spring season must remember to use an inhibitor when applying urea fertilisers.

This is especially important to avoid further government restrictions and to improve air quality, the body added.

An industry voluntary approach agreed last year means farmers and growers must use ammonia abatement treatments and inhibitors.

In England, solid fertilisers, blends and compounds with more than 1% urea applied any time from 1 April through to 15 January each year must use effective protection to reduce ammonia emissions.

Farmers using liquid fertilisers with more than 1% urea applied any time from 1 April to 15 January each year must also use effective protection to reduce ammonia emissions.

Jo Gilbertson, AIC's head of fertiliser, said the government could seek to further restrict the use of urea fertiliser with tough regulation, a potential move driven by the need to cut ammonia emissions.

She said: "The industry's collective agreement with the government to use inhibitors, and therefore avoid the very real threat of an outright ban on urea fertilisers, was hard won last year.

"It is imperative that the entire farming industry maintains its clear commitment to support this arrangement in the face of the ever-present threat of regulation."

Unprotected, uninhibited liquid fertiliser containing urea can only be applied between 1 April and the last application in autumn.

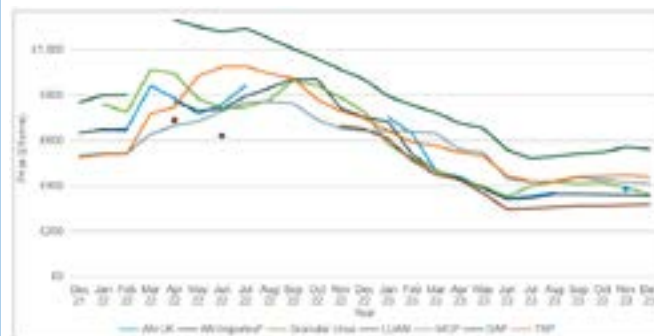
This is only possible if agronomic justification is provided by FACTS-qualified farm personnel or advice specific to the crop has been provided by a FACTS-qualified adviser and been followed.

Source: www.agriland.co.uk, 15 January 2024

AHDB: GB fertiliser prices

Last updated: 09 January 2024

The GB fertiliser price series aims to increase transparency in the market and help levy payers understand price trends for a key input. The prices cover the most commonly used products: Ammonium nitrate (UK produced and imported), liquid nitrogen (UAN), granular urea, potash and phosphates. They are an average of spot prices and therefore should be used as an indicator of pricing trends.



Note:

All prices are based on a price per tonne for a:

- Full load
- Standard 28-day payment terms
- Bags delivered to farm price
- Spot prices: Prices for delivery within a month (28 days)

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


Source: www.ahdb.org.uk, 9 January 2024






FERTILISER

We can source a complete range of high quality fertilisers and ensure that our products are sold and marketed in a responsible way.

Our comprehensive product list includes:
Ammonium Nitrate, Ammonium Sulphate, MOP, DAP, TSP, CAN, Granular Urea, Prilled Urea, Straights, Compounds and Blends.



FIAS Registered

Tel: 01622 815356 email: enquiries@ramsak.co.uk

www.ramsak.co.uk

FARM SAFETY Who's responsible for managing health and safety in forestry?



When we think about high-risk industries, construction is usually the first that comes to mind. Forestry and agriculture are often overlooked. However, they are among the most high-risk industries in the UK when it comes to health and safety.

Forestry work is difficult. It is generally outdoors in all kinds of weathers, meaning workers are exposed to the elements all year round. The ground is not even or always stable, posing additional danger for workers who are often handling heavy machinery or large vehicles, which incur their own electrical and mechanical hazards.

On top of that, trees and earth can be deadly if they're not lifted, handled, felled, or excavated carefully and methodically.

Planning, managing, and coordinating forest operations is complex because the risk profile is rarely simple and straightforward. Responsibility for health and safety in such a complex working environment extends from ground workers right up to chief executives of management companies, forestry organisations, and even landowners.

Some roles carry significantly more responsibilities than others. However, health and safety is never a one-man job. Managing forestry safety relies on interdependence between all levels of an organisation. Essentially, there are five key roles:

The landowner

This could be the estate owner, a farmer, or even a local authority. Landowners need to coordinate all activities in the overall forest environment and appoint competent advisors and specialists who can ensure all workers' safety is protected as much as reasonably possible.

Forestry works manager (FWM)

This is sometimes the landowner themselves, but often the FWM is appointed to carry out duties on their behalf and commission works on a forestry site. FWMs prepare outline risk assessments for

site works, select competent contractors, and liaise between them and the landowners. They're also responsible for arrangements to report incidents and unsafe practices, and for specifying control measures on site.

Contractor

A contractor is brought in on a consultancy basis to provide forestry services, such as felling trees or groundworks. Contractors usually work with the FWM to ensure that safety standards are set and maintained correctly. They will select any subcontractors necessary, supervise and manage employees, and carry out site-specific risk assessments.

Subcontractor

Anyone engaged by a contractor other than by direct employment is a subcontractor. All subcontractors cooperate with site safety rules and manage their own team of employees.

They will report any incidents or unsafe practices that occur on site and are also responsible for carrying out site-specific risk assessments and supervising workers.

Worker

Workers in the forestry industry are expected to take care of their own health and safety as well as that of those who could be affected by their work.

They cooperate with site safety rules and agree not to interfere with, or misuse, any equipment or processes that have been provided for their health, safety, and welfare.

They must follow all training provided and report any incidents or unsafe practices to the contractor or their employer.

Cooperation is key. Everyone plays a part in managing forestry health and safety. Successful management requires coordination of activities and communication of information. By planning in advance and identifying risks, appropriate resources can be allocated, and competent persons assigned to key tasks.

Functions of a particular role can be delegated to an individual, but they cannot take on the legal responsibilities that go with the role. Discussion and cooperation are essential, as is understanding how one role supports another's to carry out theirs.

Everyone on the team plays a part in managing health and safety across the forestry industry.

**CONTACT RAMSAK NOW
FOR ALL YOUR FORESTRY
REQUIREMENTS, FROM
TRAINING TO TREE REMOVAL
SERVICES 01622 815356 or
email enquiries@ramsak.co.uk**



RAMSAK MEMBER FEATURE NPC TREE SURGERY Specialists in Hazardous Tree Removal

We have over 20 years of experience providing Arboricultural services.

NPC Tree Surgery are able to offer a reliable and competitive service by using the latest technology and equipment. We are a Safe Contractor approved company, this means we are independently audited on our health and safety procedures, record keeping administration and insurance. This gives you the peace of mind we are a professional company following latest industry standards. All of our members of staff are fully trained, certified and insured. They each have the knowledge and experience you should demand from your arborists.

We provide domestic and commercial tree surgery services, including tree pruning, tree felling, stump grinding, decay detection, agricultural services, fire wood and tree planting.

Services:

- Mechanical Tree Removal
- Pruning
- Felling
- Stump Grinding
- Deadwood
- Hedge Trimming/Cutting
- Planting



CONTACT RAMSAK NOW
TO BOOK YOUR SITE
VISIT AND QUOTATION ON
01622 815356 or email
enquiries@ramsak.co.uk

PUBLIC PATHS AND THE COUNTRYSIDE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY Landowners' And Managers' Rights And Responsibilities

Information on maintaining Public Rights of Way, including structures and fencing, definitive and permissive Rights of Way and public and private access.

The Countryside Code outlines the rights and responsibilities of landowners and managers with regard to Public Rights of Way that cross their land.

A summary of the guidelines given can be found on the following pages by clicking the links. The Trees and vegetation information is detailed below:

- [Animals](#)
- [Building and buying near a right of way](#)
- [Definitive and permissive Rights of Way](#)
- [Ploughing and cropping](#)
- [Public and private access](#)
- [Structures and Fencing](#)
- **Trees and vegetation**

Information for tree owners about [ash dieback](#) and how its impact is managed.

If you are a farmer or landowner, the [information on wild plants](#) on the GOV.UK website will tell you which wild plants you need to take action against and watch out for, and which ones you must protect.

Landowners and managers are responsible for the maintenance of side vegetation, such as hedges and trees, on or by the side of a Public Right of Way, to ensure that it does not encroach onto the public path.

Any necessary surface vegetation clearance, which is the responsibility of the County Council, is assessed during the routine inspection cycle.

When a tree or branch has come down on a Public Right of Way it is the landowner/manager's responsibility to clear the debris.

If works need to be undertaken on a tree, a Temporary Path Closure needs to be in place; check to ensure the trees concerned are not subject to a [Tree Preservation Order \(TPO\)](#).

Any branches overhanging a Public Right of Way should not obstruct users, and have a minimum height clearance of 3.75 metres on bridleways.

Enquiries can be made to establish ownership of trees with the relevant parish or district council or by contacting the [Land Registry](#).

Where a tree/overhanging branches present an immediate hazard to path users, contact the Public Rights of Way Team.

- [Sites of Nature Conservation Importance \(SNCI's\)](#)

This guidance is taken from the West Sussex County Council website: www.westsussex.gov.uk and edited as required. It is advisable to check your own council's website and the gov.uk website for additional clarification.

Source: www.westsussex.gov.uk

MISCANTHUS: The profitable solution for flood-prone fields

Miscanthus and benefit from a long-term end-user contract with finance available.

Thriving in areas where other crops struggle, Miscanthus can be grown on less productive land, including flood-prone fields that are less profitable or higher-risk. Furthermore, it contributes to soil stability and offers numerous environmental advantages, such as biodiversity benefits and the sequestration of 2.35 tonnes of CO₂e per hectare annually.

Miscanthus is a perennial highly sustainable, renewable energy crop that's more affordable and profitable thanks to SFI payments, accelerating the break-even point for return on investment and yielding an average net return of £930 per hectare for a 10-hectare crop. This figure continues to rise annually because it's retail price index linked.

A solution for waterlogged or high-risk fields Results of a study from the Institute of Biological Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) at Aberystwyth University concluded that Miscanthus can thrive on waterlogged fields, it provides soil stability and crop yield is not affected by excess water.

Growers profiting from Miscanthus on flood-prone land "Arable crops would never have survived the flooded conditions that the Miscanthus was exposed to, and we didn't lose any money on inputs. The annual yield quickly recovered, and in 2017 and 2020, we had bumper harvests of over 13t/ha." Rob Meadley, East Yorkshire arable farmer. "It was a win-win situation, because no damage was done to the land, no money was spent on contractors, it wasn't a loss, because we harvested the crop the following year with the new growth and we hadn't spent any money on inputs because no fertiliser was applied," William Cracroft-Eley, Lincolnshire Miscanthus grower.

Source: www.farming.co.uk, 8 January 2024

About Miscanthus



Miscanthus is a woody rhizomatous C₄ grass species which originated in SE Asia and was initially imported to Europe as an ornamental plant. It is a perennial plant with an estimated productive life of around 16 years. It grows to 3-4m in height and the stems and leaves can be harvested annually. It utilises the C₄ photosynthetic pathway in contrast to the C₃ pathway utilised by standard arable crops in Northern Europe (such as wheat, oilseed rape potatoes). As such it shows a higher irradiation conversion efficiency than C₃ plants and is also more efficient in its use of nitrogen and water. It is affected by low temperatures, but is better adapted to temperate climates than most other C₄ crops (such as maize).

The cost of establishing a miscanthus plantation has reduced considerably in recent years. It should be possible to prepare the land and plant the crop for around £1500 per hectare. As a general rule it is considered a viable option for farmland south of a line drawn between the Severn and the Wash. However, extensive plantings have been established in Yorkshire to fuel the Drax power station.

Miscanthus is grown as a monoculture of one variety of *M x giganteus* although there is a breeding programme underway at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences at Aberystwyth University to increase the genetic base of the crop. There are currently no significant economic pests and diseases.

Pros

- Harvested annually
- Uses conventional agricultural machinery
- Reasonable contractor rates as outside typical forage harvester season
- Limited pests and disease
- Annual harvests provide better cash flow
- Lots of alternative markets e.g. biocomposites, horse bedding Low inputs required
- Uniform crop
- Typically higher yields than SRC
- Lower moisture content when harvested

Cons

- Monoculture
- Only one or two varieties in cultivation – no significant disease or pest problems – yet!
- Challenging fuel – typically more hands on due to higher ash and mineral content.
- Higher establishment costs
- Generally lower returns than SRC due to annual harvesting
- Does not respond to N fertilizer
- Low density fuel so transport is typically more expensive
- Requires covered barn for storage of bales
- More limited boiler selection

Source: www.crops4energy.co.uk

NIAB: Trish Malarkey joins NIAB Board



NIAB has appointed Trish Malarkey as a member of its Board.

With a career spanning over 30 years in food and agritech innovation, Ms Malarkey has held senior research and development roles in multinational businesses in the UK, Switzerland, The Netherlands and the USA. These include Chief Innovation Officer at Royal DSM, Head of Global Research and Development at Syngenta and various non-executive director and scientific advisory roles in established global companies and start-ups.

Commenting on Ms Malarkey's appointment Dr David Buckeridge, chair of the NIAB Board said: "The role of the Board is to support the organisation in its strategic development. Global agriculture is changing as we embrace advances in food productivity whilst reducing its impact to the climate and improving our biodiversity. NIAB has a central role in developing and translating this science into proven and practical applications for farmers and growers. Trish's ability to bring together commercial business and R&D strategies, alongside her breadth of scientific technical expertise, and her knowledge of the global agribusiness industry, will provide NIAB with unique and valued insight in its future development."

Trish Malarkey responded: "This is a great time to join NIAB and I am hugely impressed at the strategic changes the organisation has implemented over the past 15+ years to strengthen its capabilities in crop genetic research, applied agronomy and knowledge transfer. I am looking forward to being involved in the next steps in NIAB's vision to ensure high-yielding, profitable crop production go hand in hand with reducing agriculture's environmental and climate impact."

Dr Buckeridge thanked Professor Alison Smith and Dr Nigel Kerby, who are retiring as Board members, for their service and support of NIAB over the past eight years.

NIAB also welcomes Philip Wynn OBE and Professor John Latham to the National Institute of Agricultural Botany Trust. Philip has been Chair of LEAF since 2017 and has a long career in agriculture, managing and advising businesses in nearly every sector of the industry. John is a farmer in Cambridgeshire and former chair of Camgrain.

And finally, former NIAB Board Chair Tony Pexton is standing down from the BCPC Advisory Board. Tony first joined BCPC in 2010 as a BCPC Executive Member and BCPC Trustee. He is replaced by Hazel Doonan, who is Head of Crop Protection and Agronomy at The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC).

Source: www.niab.com, 11 January 2024

Growers reminded to have their say on digital grain passports

A consultation with the industry over the introduction of a digital passport for combinable crops will close for responses in under one month's time.

Cereals and oilseeds producers are being urged to have their say on the business case for implementing a digital passport for combinable crops.

The consultation on AHDB's proposal closes on 2 February 2024.

Digitising paper passports to improve food and feed safety data communication, through supply chains, has been discussed for more than a decade.

Over the last year a simplified version of previous proposals has been developed by AHDB's Digital Grain Passport Leadership Group, which is being consulted on.

As part of this group, representatives from the cereals and oilseeds chain, including farmers, have been working together to create a business case.

This sets out how a digital passport system could operate, replicating the purpose of the existing paper passport.

Switching to a single, industry-wide digital passport is expected to improve data integrity and security, provide scope for real-time assurance checks and reduce costs across the supply chain, the group says.

The move is also expected to increase confidence and credibility to growers, buyers' customers, stakeholders and regulators.

A spokesperson for the Leadership Group said that substantial time had been invested in developing the business case.

"The consultation is vital in helping to refine and improve the business case whilst answering a raft of industry questions," the spokesperson said.


"There have been several events across the country where passport users have taken opportunity to feed in their thoughts and ask questions.

"This has been beneficial in establishing views on the business case and highlighting gaps that need to be addressed.

"The consultation runs until 2 February, and we encourage all passport users to use that time to input into the process and give their thoughts on the business case."

To engage with the consultation, farmers should contact their representative trade association or contact AHDB via David.Eudall@ahdb.org.uk.

Source: www.farminguk.com, 12 January 2024



Soaring costs of production over the past two years has meant that some of the UK's leading horticulture businesses have shelved any plans for growth, putting the future of the UK's fruit and vegetable industry at risk.

A new report, prepared by Promar International and commissioned by the NFU, found that costs of production have increased by as much as 39% in the past two years. Key inputs including energy costs rising by 218%, fertiliser up 47% and labour costs up 24% are shown to be behind the hike.

The crops impacted most by these increases include much of the UK's favourite fruit and vegetables such as strawberries, tomatoes, apples and lettuce.

The report also warned these production costs, along with the impacts of the ongoing global volatility, are seen as the 'new normal' and businesses aren't expecting the situation to change any time soon.

This, the report says, has produced a situation where growers have seen profits 'all but wiped out for the last 2 years', with profit margins unlikely to stabilise soon.

Key findings:

Cost price inflation

Over two years, the compound cost of production increases have been:

Product	2022	2023	Total compound cost
Tomatoes	+27%	+10.3%	38.5%
Lettuce	+20%	+11.2%	33.4%
Mushrooms	+17%	+11.4%	30.3%
Strawberries	+20%	+10.3%	32.3%
Potatoes	+20%	+6.6%	27.9%
Broccoli	+25%	+5.6%	32%
Onions	+21%	+6%	28.2%
Carrots	+20%	+8%	29.6%
Apples	+23%	+9.3%	34.4%

Source: Promar International, based on B2B interviews

Costs of production increases

Over two years to October 23, compound cost of production have been:

Product	2022	2023	Total compound cost
Labour	+13%	+10%	24.3%
Energy	+165%	+20%	218%
Raw materials	+20%	+11%	33.2%
Seeds	+8%	+10%	18.8%
Fertiliser	+40%	+5%	47%

Ag chem	+18%	+13%	33.3%
Transport	+28%	+6%	35.6%
Diesel	+50%	-12%	32%
Packaging	+23%	+2%	25.6%

Source: Promar International, based on B2B interviews

Current pressures are 'unsustainable'

The report found that growers continue to face challenges from buyers to recover inflationary costs from customers, noting negotiations have been more complex, more frequent and often not recovering costs. In some cases, growers have been forced to 'walk away', or reduce volume supplied.

NFU Horticulture and Potatoes Board chair Martin Emmett said he was "seriously concerned" to hear growers are considering cutting production next season adding that this is the "third year of unprecedented and highly volatile costs of production, coupled with ongoing uncertainty about the availability of permanent and seasonal workforce and supply chains that returns little value back to growers".

"Growers are doing everything they can to make sure the supply of homegrown fruit and vegetables are on supermarket shelves, but as highlighted in the report, there is likely to be further consolidation in production and distribution. If pressures continue as they are, it will be unsustainable for some businesses."

Martin outlined the [NFU's growth strategy for horticulture](#), published in March 2023, which sets out the ten key building blocks needed for growers to develop and grow the industry.

"While it is positive that the government consultation into the horticulture supply chain has now opened, many businesses are continuing to face difficult customer relationships with prolonged contract negotiations, and contract planning cycles out of sync with production cycles, making it tough for growers to plan long-term for their businesses. This needs to change," Martin added.

In December, Defra launched its [long-awaited review](#) aimed at increasing fairness in the fresh produce supply chain. It runs for ten weeks, until 22 February and the NFU will draw on member feedback to make a full response.

NFU asks:

Martin called on the government to "back our fruit and vegetable growers with action and ambition as set out in its own Food Strategy and match our ambition for growth".

"It is crazy to think at a time when we want people to eat more healthily, we are only 50% self-sufficient in vegetables and 15% self-sufficient in fruit," he added.

Key among the NFU's asks is a consistent plan for seasonal labour, including a five-year rolling Seasonal Workers Scheme, as well as sustainable returns and longer-term contracts with key customers, the retailers.

NFU members can also access the [Promar report from November 2022](#), and [Promar's initial report in spring 2022](#) which found that the biggest year-on-year inflationary increases were reported in energy (+81%), fertiliser (+75%), packaging (+25%), transport and raw materials (both +18%), and labour (+15%).

Source: www.nfuonline.com, 3 January 2024

Storm Henk could further reduce veg availability



As growers across the country come to terms with the effects of the latest named storm of the winter, Storm Henk, concerns have grown about the availability of crops including vegetables, both in terms of crops currently in the ground and when it will be possible to sow and plant crops in spring.

Following last week's heavy rainfall, the NFU has said that farmers who are expected to let fields of crops flood to protect towns should also be compensated. Persistent rain over the Christmas and New Year period was followed by Storm Henk, all of which added additional water to soils and catchments which were at full capacity following Storms Babet and Ciaran in the autumn.

In parts of Lincolnshire, river levels around the Trent valley are at their highest ever recorded levels, while farmland south of Lincoln is once again flooded. Environment Secretary Steve Barclay told the BBC, the government was helping farmers by investing in flood defences, saying: "The work that the government has done has protected over half a million acres of farmland and, of course, we are committing more money to future schemes as well – over £5bn of investment in 2,000 schemes that the government has committed to over a six-year period from 2021." However, NFU deputy president Tom Bradshaw warned, "This constant wet weather again highlights the need for government to recognise the strategic importance of domestic food production and urgently deliver solutions to mitigate the impact of flooding of farmland to ensure our farmers and growers can continue producing food for the nation."

At the same time, suppliers such as Nationwide Produce have said they are seeing shortages in the availability of winter vegetable crops such as carrots, parsnips, leeks and cauliflowers. Carrot production in Nottinghamshire has been particularly hard hit. Jack Ward of British Growers told the Fresh Produce Journal that Storm Henk was "the straw that has broken the camel's back."

He added, "It started raining in September and we've had little dry weather since, so the ground's been saturated. These conditions will put a lot of stress on crops that are planned to provide us with fresh produce for the next 12-15 weeks. The next problem is that we need to start planting vegetable crops for harvesting when Spanish crops start to run out in May. So, if plantings are delayed, we could see some real pinch points as we swap between the seasons."

Source: www.hortnews.com, 10 January 2024

SFI will provide an income of £45 per hectare to those taking an IPM approach



Biostimulant specialist and Managing Director of Orion FT, James Kennedy

The government's Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) will provide an income of £45 per hectare to farmers and growers taking an integrated pest management (IPM) approach and relinquishing the use of chemicals in favour of biological solutions.

"We welcome these incentives that will help growers in England rely less on chemical insecticides. Using biostimulants, especially those containing silicon, has repeatedly produced plants that are more resilient to stresses by improving cell strength, cell adhesion, and increasing cuticle thickness," says biostimulant specialist James Kennedy from Orion FT.

UK farm data has shown that applying silicon biostimulants to crops from strawberries to wheat has a similar effect and improves plant health, making the crop stronger. Stronger plants are subsequently healthier and better protected against pests such as aphids, slugs and flea beetle.

"The fundamental difference to using crop protection products is that silicon acts to improve overall plant and soil health. The accumulation of silicon also increases puncture resistance and leaf hair density, fortifying the plant's natural defences," explains Mr Kennedy.

The SFI will apply to arable, leguminous and nitrogen fixing crops, along with horticultural and non-horticultural permanent crops such as soft, stone, and top fruits. Mr Kennedy also suggests that using silicon biostimulants on these crops will help mitigate against climate extremes.

"Crops treated with silicon establish deeper-searching root structures capable of finding more nutrients and water. The UK is experiencing ever higher temperatures and longer drought periods so it makes sense to incentivise growers to use products that can counteract this," he concludes.

Source: www.hortnews.com, 17 December 2023



FORAGE

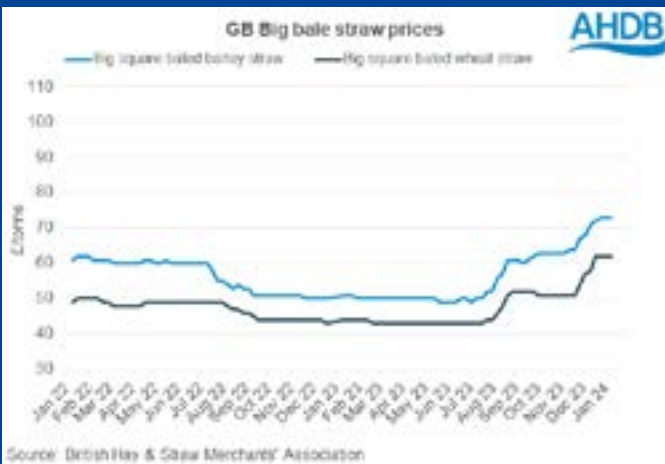


HAY AND STRAW PRICES

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				
£/tonne (ex-farm)	01/01/2024	31/12/2023	Weekly change	06/01/2023
Big bale hay	86	86	00	80
Big square baled barley straw	72	70	02	51
Big square baled wheat straw	62	60	02	44

Source: British Hay & Straw Merchants' Association



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

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

Caution when feeding forage crops in frosty weather



With temperatures dropping significantly this week, farmers overwintering stock on forage crops need to be extra cautious.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ARTICLE](#) or go to <https://www.farmersjournal.ie/caution-when-feeding-forage-crops-in-frosty-weather-593380>

Source: www.farmersjournal.ie, 5 January 2021

RAMSAK FORAGE

Foraging, baling, wrapping, mowing (available with conditioner/swather), self-propelled forage cutting, chopping and carting. All sizes of round baling and wrapping, all sizes of square baling and wrapping, topping (grass and set-a-side). Forage trading—source and supply.



Tel: 01622 815356 email: enquiries@ramsak.co.uk

www.ramsak.co.uk

!!FORAGE WANTED!!

ALL FORAGE WANTED for waiting buyers!

For all forage enquiries call 01622 815356 or email: karen@ramsak.co.uk

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS



Over 50 bluetongue cases have been recorded in Norfolk and Kent as farmers and vets met for an 'urgent' update on the situation.

A farmer focussed bluetongue meeting took place 15 January as key industry organisations work to provide support to those affected.

There have been 51 bluetongue cases in England on 27 farms and holdings, according to the latest figures published by Defra.

Both Norfolk and Kent are still in a temporary control zone (TCZ) since the initial outbreak of bluetongue in mid-November, which was the UK's first case since 2007.

Bluetongue is a non-contagious, viral disease affecting sheep and cattle, which is transmitted by insects, particularly biting midges.

The severity of disease varies among different species, with clinical signs being most severe in sheep, resulting in death, weight loss and disruption in wool growth.

Cattle often have a higher infection rate than sheep, and the demonstration and severity of clinical signs varies depending on the strain of virus.

However, production losses, particularly milk yield, can remain for a long time and are significant. Infected animals can abort or give birth to weak offspring.

Defra's latest update said that surveillance was ongoing, adding that "there is still no evidence that bluetongue virus is currently circulating in midges in Great Britain."

It comes as an 'urgent' meeting took place to provide the latest update for farmers and vets. The meeting was chaired by Hugh Broom, NFU East livestock board member, and Dan Phipps, chairman of the National Sheep Association (NSA).

He said: "Ensuring vital and importantly, up to date BTV-3 information is accurately shared with farmers, is dependent on all of the industry experts and stakeholders collaborating."

Defra confirmed in its latest update that the TCZs are not being extended and movement restrictions continue to apply to cattle, sheep, deer, camelids and other ruminants in the zone.

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.

Farmers can call the dedicated bluetongue hotline to get advice or ask questions linked to the current situation – on 024 7771 0386 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Source: www.farminguk.com (edited) 15 January 2024

DEFRA: Avian influenza detected in mammals in sub-Antarctica for the first time

- **Results confirm High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been found in elephant and fur seals on the subantarctic island of South Georgia**
- **The Animal and Plant Health Agency is at the forefront of testing for HPAI in the region**
- **Findings do not present any increased risk to human health at this time**

The presence of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) has today (Thursday 11 January) been confirmed for the first time in mammals in sub-Antarctica. The disease was detected in elephant and fur seals on the island of South Georgia by experts from the UK's world-leading Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Working alongside the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) and the British Antarctic survey (BAS), APHA has been at the forefront of testing for bird flu in mammals in this sub-Antarctic region since it was first suspected last year.

South Georgia is a UK Overseas Territory situated in the Southern Atlantic Ocean, approximately 1,000km south-east of the Falkland Islands, and is accessible only by ship. It has some of the most closely monitored seabird colonies in the world, equipping scientists and conservationists with indicators of change for species.

HPAI was first suspected on Bird Island off the northwest coast of South Georgia in October 2023 after the deaths of several brown skua. Sequence analysis from infected birds demonstrates that the virus has most likely been introduced through migratory bird movement from South America.

Leading APHA scientist Dr Marco Falchieri of the Influenza and Avian Virology team spent three weeks in the sub Antarctic region visiting the affected islands onboard Royal Navy vessel HMS Forth and collected samples from dead mammals, including elephant seals, and birds.

Following testing and sequencing at APHA's laboratory in Weybridge, the samples have tested positive for HPAI H5N1 in elephant seals, fur seals, brown skuas, kelp gulls and Antarctic terns.

Continued...

Samples were also collected from albatross and giant petrel colonies on Bird Island but tested negative. There have been no reports of above average mortality in any penguin species to date.

The available genomic surveillance data continues to suggest no widespread mammalian adaptation of the virus. There remains no increased risk to human health - the risk of human infection with H5N1 remains very low.

This work follows the announcement of an additional £3.3 million from UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) Tackling Infections programme and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) granted to our FluMap project. The new project, FluTrailMap, will respond to the evolving nature of avian influenza and further our understanding of:

- transmission and infection in different bird populations, including how the virus transmits from wild birds to farmed poultry
- the gaps in biosecurity that allow the virus to penetrate premises, and how they may be addressed
- the role of immunity in wild birds in the evolution of the virus
- how the implementation of vaccination might impact upon outbreaks

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is a world

leader in studying avian influenza. Our International Reference Laboratory at Weybridge conducts analysis on global samples, provides expert advice and rapidly shares the latest information internationally on outbreaks.

APHA Weybridge is globally recognised in providing impartial, high quality scientific expertise and policy development. Work on animal diseases has been conducted at the APHA Weybridge site for over 100 years and the International Reference Laboratory for influenza and Newcastle disease holds one of the largest viral repositories globally, with our oldest isolates dating back to 1940s.

Source: www.farming.co.uk, 11 January 2024

Are you really serious about cost savings on your insurance?

COPPERWHEAT BARLOW
Insurance Brokers

NEW FARM COMBINED PACKAGE POLICY NOW AVAILABLE WITH ONE OF THE STRONGEST INSURANCE COMPANIES IN THE COUNTRY!

We are specialist farm, estate and contractors insurance Brokers.

For your free, no obligation quotation, please contact:
Telephone: 01795 842479
Email: info@copperwheatbarlow.co.uk
www.copperwheatbarlow.co.uk

Members of RAMSAK and Supporters of RAMSAK Members

Mobile Mill & Mixing for the 21st Century



- Reliable and fully certified service for assurance scheme compliance
- State of the art Buschhoff mills
- Free in house nutrition support
- Accurate mixing & fast processing, up to 25t an hour

NEW ROTTMANN Mega Grain Liquid[®] Preservative

...only the best for farmers!

- Treat whole grain or use roll and treat service
- Can be fed immediately after treatment
- Penetrates the grain, not just the surface!
- Store in silo, floor store or under plastic
- Preserves feed value - stop mycotoxins at source



01622 815356

www.bwfeeds.com



NPA calls for tougher illegal meat import rules after deeply worrying Dover seizures

The NPA has called for all non-commercial meat imports to the UK be made illegal and for more resources to be allocated to enforcing the law, after it emerged that large quantities of meat are being seized at the Port of Dover.

Revelations that 57 tonnes of illegally imported pigmeat have been seized at the Port of Dover since September 2022 are deeply worrying. This included 5.5 tonnes of illegal meat seized over the weekend before Christmas, alone.

Beverley Edmondson, Port Health Manager at Dover District Council and Port Health Authority, said the large quantities being seized by Dover Port Health Authority (DPHA), despite 'limited resource', could be just the 'tip of the iceberg'.

In an article for the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's EHN magazine, she gave a sobering update on the port's progress in implementing rules introduced in September 2022 to protect the UK pig herd from African swine fever (ASF). The rules make it illegal for travellers to bring pork products weighing over 2kg into the country from the EU unless produced to EU commercial standards.

"We are seeing unprecedented quantities of illegal, non-compliant meat, unparalleled at any other point of entry," Ms Edmondson said.

"Our experiences over the last 12 months have highlighted the scale and scope of the illegal meat trade, and why our work to remove it from the food chain is so critical. We estimate that, for every tonne of illicit meat removed, there are multiple tonnes entering GB undetected," she said.

She suggested the work should be placed under port health authority jurisdiction, rather than Border Force, for specific high-risk locations such as Dover, and said it was 'imperative resources are appropriately channelled and maintained to ensure we can keep this stuff out'.

NPA response

NPA chief executive Lizzie Wilson praised the work being done by the DPHA on behalf of the pig industry. "This can be difficult and unpleasant work and we are hugely grateful for the tireless efforts being made by DPHA to seize this illegal meat that could contain ASF virus," she said.

"But the volumes being seized are deeply worrying. The most worrying aspect of all this is the assumption that the meat being seized at Dover represents only the tip of the iceberg. It is, sadly, inevitable that lots of this illegally imported meat is getting into the country, some of which could well be infected with ASF.

"We understand, anecdotally, that due to the cost-of-living crisis, there is a growing black market for meat in this country, which will be driving the demand for illegally imported meat for both domestic and commercial use.

"As we know from the regular emergence of ASF in new areas across Europe, often attributed to human spread, it will only take one incident of a piece of infected meat reaching a pig to bring the entire pig industry to its knees.

"We are therefore calling on the Government to extend the current ban to all non-commercial pork imports rather than just consignments over 2kg. This will make it simpler for travellers to understand and easier to enforce.

"It is also absolutely essential that, as Beverley Edmondson suggests, this vital work is properly resourced – it must be maintained and strengthened, wherever possible. "We also urge the Government to consider her call for responsibility for these checks to be transferred from Border Control to the port health authorities.

"We continue to call on Defra to improve our border controls, generally, and are seeking assurances from Government that there will be no more delays to the implementation of proper border checks on commercial imports via the Border Target Operating Model, which has now been postponed five times.

"An outbreak of ASF would be catastrophic for the pig sector, with many knock-on effects. We urge the Government to take this threat seriously."

Source: www.farming.co.uk, 6 January 2024

Warning for sheep and cattle producers not to get caught out by 'later than normal' liver fluke challenge

The strange weather patterns of 2023 have had a significant impact on the level and timing of the risk of liver fluke disease across the UK, say experts within the Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) and Control of Cattle Parasites Sustainable (COWS) groups.

As predicted, the dry cold spring, hot early summer and extremely wet July and August, followed by a mini heatwave in early September and heavy rain throughout the autumn and early winter, have all contributed to the disease picture. Experts say this has pushed the fluke risk much later, with the first significant reports of losses due to liver fluke not shared until late November 2023.

Speaking on behalf of the two groups, Rudolf Reichel of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) says: "There was little evidence of liver fluke activity in the autumn, but towards the end of the year we started to get reports from abattoirs and private post mortem providers of acute fluke cases. This was mirrored by other laboratories across the country and, while overall numbers of cases are not high, this does represent a significant increase in recent weeks.

Both SCOPS and COWS reiterate their note of caution to anyone thinking of trying to cut the cost of diagnostic tests by pooling samples.

Faecal egg counts are also likely to pick up infections with rumen fluke. Normally this is nothing to worry about and animals should not be routinely treated for adult rumen fluke. If animals are looking poor, losing weight or are dehydrated, speak to your vet about risks from immature rumen fluke (these will not be detected using a faecal egg count). There is more on rumen fluke on the SCOPS and COWS websites at www.scops.org.uk/internal-parasites/liver-fluke/rumen-fluke and www.cattleparasites.org.uk/app/uploads/2023/09/liver-fluke-310823.pdf respectively.

Source: www.farming.co.uk, 11 January

FUEL PRICE OVERVIEW

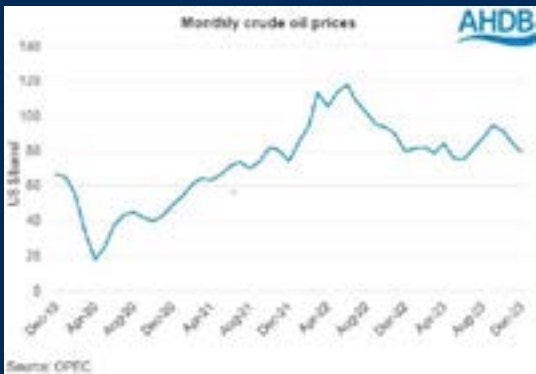
Monthly

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

Month	OPEC price (BBL / barrel)	OPEC price (C) (barrel)	UK red diesel (ppg)	UK diesel (ppl)
Dec 23	79.00	52.44	63.79	101.63
Nov 23	84.00	58.00	58.74	100.20
Month-on-month change	-5.92	-5.56	-4.95	-1.43
% change	-7.05%	-9.75%	-7.75%	-1.42%
Dec 22	79.00	55.62	59.74	119.61
Year-on-year change	-0.00	-2.90	-22.95	-27.54
% change	-0.0%	-4.8%	-29.5%	-23.4%

Source: Oema, OPEC, OPEC, EUB

*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

Certas Energy named Alternative Fuel Provider of the Year for 2023

Certas Energy has proudly announced its latest victory, winning GREENFLEET's 'Alternative Fuel Provider of the Year' for 2023.

The GREENFLEET Awards are a highlight in the fleet and transport industry events calendar and are designed to showcase enterprises and individuals who are helping to decarbonise the sector.

An awards ceremony took place on December 7 at the British Motor Museum in Warwick, where Certas Energy took home the title of 'Alternative Fuel Provider of the Year'.

Certas Energy was recognised for its work supplying HVO made from renewable raw materials and sustainable waste from verified vegetable fats and oils, helping companies, such as Royal Mail, to decarbonise their heavy duty vehicles. Judges also commended the fuel distributor for switching its own fleet to HVO, and for being a Renewable Fuel Supplier under Zemo's Renewable Fuels Assurance Scheme (RFAS), which reassures fleet operators they are purchasing bulk supplies of guaranteed and reportable sustainable fuel.

HVO is a popular choice for businesses looking to immediately cut their carbon footprint. As a drop-in alternative diesel, HVO reduces life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90% compared to standard diesel*.

Driving positive change

Speaking of the win, Niki Holt, Head of Commercial at Certas Energy, said: "We're delighted to be named GREENFLEET's 'Alternative Fuel Provider of the Year' for 2023.

"As the first fuel distributor in the UK to provide HVO to HGV refuelling bunkers, we're honoured to be recognised by the fleet sector for driving positive change. Winning this prestigious accolade underlines our continuous, long-term investment in innovative new energies, such as HVO, to support UK businesses with their sustainability and net zero targets.

"Certas Energy would like to take this opportunity to thank the judges for recognising our unwavering commitment to environmental excellence, and also our team, whose endless efforts to optimise and evolve our customers' energy mix made this win possible.

"We look forward to continuing to help forge a lower emissions future for all."

The GREENFLEET trophy is not the only sustainability-focused award that Certas Energy has won. In May, Certas Energy was named winner of the highly coveted UKIFDA Green Award 2023, for its demonstration of sustainable principles, standards and products and mission to drive decarbonisation across the business.

Fuelling the future

Certas Energy is perfectly-positioned to accelerate fleet businesses towards their sustainability targets. As well as delivering to businesses nationwide, the renewable diesel is available at a growing number of Certas Energy HGV refuelling sites.

For its own fleet, Certas Energy continues to roll-out the running of its HGV and curtain-side trucks on premium HVO. Certas Energy's initial HVO trial proved so successful that it was featured as a case study in fleet-focused Zemo Partnership's recent Renewable Fuels Guide to serve as inspiration for transport businesses looking to lower their own carbon footprint.

*Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2023>

Source: www.fueloilnews.co.uk, 5 January 2024

AdBlue®

ADBLUE CURRENT CHEAPEST PRICES FOR RAMSAK MEMBERS

AdBlue 1000L IBC price is £525

210L Barrel price is £ 180

Please contact Lucy Day to order
lucy@ramsak.co.uk



Since 2015, New Era Fuels has pioneered FuelBox, a 'bag-in-box fuelling system' that is completely recyclable and nothing short of revolutionary. The result of a collaboration with Quadpak and Fenton Packaging Solutions – a specialist stockist and distributor of a wide range of containers for powders, granules, pastes and liquids across many industry sectors, the FuelBox had its origins in red diesel but is evolving with the sector and plays a key role in New Era Fuel's efforts to champion a sustainable future.

Convenient and sustainable

Convenience and sustainability form the cornerstone of FuelBox. Our intensive testing and subsequent full launch at the Executive Hire Show in 2015 underscored the overwhelmingly positive reception of FuelBox. Today, it stands not just as a product but as an established brand, embodying an enhanced user experience and a more environmentally responsible solution.

FuelBox owes its effectiveness to an exclusive agreement with Quadpak for fuel in bag-in-box, with support from Fenton Packaging Solutions in expanding our product range. With substantial investments in filling machinery, we now boast over 1,800 stockists across the UK.

FuelBox offers numerous benefits for plant operators, including easy handling, spill-proof dispensing, and robust protection against contamination and adverse weather conditions. Moreover, its recyclability

significantly reduces plastic usage by up to 90%, minimising landfill waste by 86%. Notably, the space efficiency of 90 FuelBox bags equals that of a single traditional jerry can, resulting in substantial cost reductions for hazardous waste disposal.



Expanding to an extensive range

The FuelBox family has evolved in response to customer demands, moving beyond its origins in red diesel to incorporate an extensive range of products, including white diesel, AdBlue®, kerosene for domestic heating, HVO, and hydraulic machinery oil. These offerings come in varying pack sizes from 10 to 20 litres.

New Era Fuels work closely with Yara International as a licensed distributor of AdBlue® and witnessing the UK's annual AdBlue® consumption soar towards half a billion litres, we are committed to meeting this escalating demand. To provide a convenient and eco-friendly solution for both commercial and domestic customers, we proudly supply 10 and 18-litre AdBlue® BlueBoxes.

We are excited to announce that – recognising an unmet need in the market – we are now taking orders for our cutting-edge breakthrough, the new 500L AdBlue® BlueBox.

Compliance

Under the leadership of our Compliance Director, Ben Leworthy, New Era Fuels proudly holds the highest accreditations in the UK as a compliant fuel distributor, including esteemed risk certification. Our unwavering commitment to compliance allows us to deliver to any location, including challenges such as rail-side sites.

Our ISO certifications across ISO9001, ISO14001, and ISO45001, along with our FORS Gold accreditation, further validate our commitment to industry-leading practices.

Source: www.fueloilnews.co.uk (edited), 20 December 2023



HOME COUNTIES FUELS



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

Whilst farming has changed during this time, our commitment to outstanding service and competitive prices has remained - we are delighted to now offer an enhanced service to RAMSAK members.

We offer a full range of quality fuels and lubricants, including our new 'Premier Euro Gas Oil' - a high performance fuel designed to meet the needs of modern farm machinery requiring EN590 Gas Oil.

- RAMSAK Group discount
- Next day delivery
- Standard delivery 6 days/week
- Sunday & Bank Holiday deliveries available
- Road Diesel
- Gas Oil
- Premier Euro Gas Oil (EN590)
- Heating Oil
- Fuel Cards – for national diesel bunkering

Please contact RAMSAK today to ask about the full range of products and services available we will be delighted to help.

YARD & TRACK MAINTENANCE

ALL LOADS RECYCLED MATERIAL

- Crushed Concrete
- Reduced Fines Crushed Concrete
- Recycled Road Planings
- Recycled Type 1
- Rock Fines

RAMSAK member, All Loads, based at Yalding near Maidstone, Kent, stocks a number of aggregates to help maintain and repair your your yards and tracks after damage from the winter months.

For your convenience their recycled materials are available in a variety of quantities - bulk bag as well as by the tonne loose, bulk or small loads.

Special price for bulk loads for RAMSAK members. Contact the RAMSAK office for a quote on enquiries@ramsak.co.uk.

ALL LOADS Ltd

Specialists in Supplying Aggregates



Free Local	Delivery	
GRAB SERVICE	PLANT HIRE	MATERIALS
Muck Away	Mini Diggers	Ballast
Rubbish	1.5 to 7 ton	Sharp Sand
Hardcore	Dumpers	Building Sand
Materials	1 ton hi-tip	Type 1
Haulage Service	2 ton to 6 ton	Shingle 10/20mm
Domestic	Excavators	Road Plainings
Commercial	8 ton to 21 ton	Topsoll
Site Clearance		Turf
Bulk Bag Waste		Decorative Stone

www.allloads.co.uk

Call 01622 815356 For a Free Quote

Email: aggregates@allloads.co.uk

Available NOW through your RAMSAK Membership



PRESSURE CLEAN

We are a leading supplier and an approved repair centre With 50 years trading in the cleaning industry. With our strong ties and long term relationship with the leading manufacturers

We offer existing and new customers unbiased advice on all types of industrial cleaning equipment.

01825-705777

Enquiries@pressureclean.co.uk

PRESSURE CLEAN

PREMIER CLEANING EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER

Offering professional cleaning equipment and supplying high quality products at competitive prices. Pressure washers, scrubber dryers, industrial vacuums from Nilfisk, Karcher and MAC International. Providing all of our customers with a complete service and repair package within our home counties including, London, Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey and Kent for over 50 years. Check the RAMSAK machinery list for Pressure Clean ex-demo and second-hand machines for sale now!

Available NOW through your RAMSAK Membership

CLEANING DETERGENTS

RAMSAK

TFR-RAMSAK SPECIAL OFFERS



FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

TFR UNIVERSAL	TFR WITH WAX	TFR HEAVY DUTY
<p>A quality concentrated traffic film remover, formulated to effectively remove heavy traffic film soiling from vehicle paintwork and to degrease under chassis components and engine bays. Normal application between 1 or 2%.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;"> 1000 LTRs was £365 NOW £309 200 LTRs was £75 NOW £25 3 x 20 LTRs was £150 NOW £35 </p>	<p>A quality concentrated traffic film remover, formulated to effectively remove heavy traffic film soiling and insects from vehicle paintwork. The product includes an antistatic additive which improves and enhances the finish on rinsing while reducing dust attraction. Normal application between 1 or 2%.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;"> 1000 LTRs was £385 NOW £330 200 LTRs was £77 NOW £25 3 x 20 LTRs was £155 NOW £35 </p>	<p>This product gives a superb fast clean rinse due to its high level of cationic. The concentration of this product also allows the detergent to be pre-diluted before final dosing through the machine. Normal application between 0.2 or 1%.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;"> 1000 LTRs was £360 NOW £310 200 LTRs was £72 NOW £25 3 x 20 LTRs was £150 NOW £35 </p>

PRESSURE CLEAN
 UNIT 4, TJ BELL LANE
 UKAPFIELD
 EAST SUSSEX
 TN22 5GL
 01825-705777
 ALL PRESSURE CLEAN





CALL RAMSAK NOW ON:

01622 815356



www.nextgencladding.co.uk

Nextgen Cladding Ltd

Penfold's commercial, agricultural and residential building specialists with over 40 years experience



METAL ROOFING

- Snaplock systems
- Aluminium
- Standing seam
- Zinc
- Copper



CLADDING

- Composite cladding
- Metal cladding
- Fibre cement cladding
- Timber cladding



ASBESTOS REMOVAL

- Removal
- Disposal
- Surveys



Gritting & Snow Clearance

We can undertake winter gritting and snow clearance services for commercial, industrial and private premises across the south-east.

Tankering services

We have a fleet of vacuum tankers available for hire to undertake soakaway testing, dust suppression and other water solutions as well as emergency call outs for flood clearance.

Boundary Management

Using our tractor mounted hedge cutter & excavator mounted tree saw we can clear and maintain field and estate boundary's as well as clearing storm debris.

Hay & Straw Supply

- Haylage & Hay
 - Wheat & Barley straw
- Bale size 120 x 70 & 120 x 90



Stanford Bridge Farm, Station Road, Pluckley, Ashford, Kent, TN27 0RU

Contact Ramsak on 01622 815356 www.fgsagri.co.uk

PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS



ENGINE FIRM PROVIDES HEART OF AUTONOMOUS SOLUTION

Having proven itself in ARTEC's self-propelled sprayers, Volvo Penta's D5 engine was the frontrunner to help the Kuhn Group develop a new era of ultra-efficient, autonomous solutions for farmers – while expanding their partnership even further

With its ability to perform all the typical tasks of an agricultural tractor without requiring an operator to be onboard, Kuhn's KARL autonomous multifunctional field tool was one of the highlights at Agritechnica 2023. Behind the prototype machine's latest state-of-the-art software and electronics, is a more familiar piece of engineering – the powerful and reliable Volvo Penta D5 in-line four-cylinder diesel engine.

Since 2016, Volvo Penta has been the main engine partner of the French self-propelled sprayer manufacturer. The fuel-efficient D8 and D5 units proved themselves on ARTEC's F40 EVO and RS20 designs respectively. The company was therefore the obvious choice when engineers from the OEM, and its Kuhn Group parent, decided to scale up the original KARL prototype, with proven Volvo Penta technology and its flexible platform.

"As an engine partner, rather than just an engine supplier, we provided input to this project at an early stage, around two years ago," explains Benjamin Deysieux, Business Engineer, Volvo Penta. "The fact that the D5 was already used with great success on ARTEC's self-propelled sprayers helped drive the decision, but another major reason was that its 5.13 litres from four big cylinders make numerous power nodes available, all the way up to 238 hp. Today it offers 172 hp, with lots of power and torque at low RPM. But, as this prototype may eventually gain some weight, we have plenty of latitude to provide even more power from the same installation and footprint."

Volvo Penta's vast industry expertise and experience with ARTEC's production machines proved invaluable in developing KARL's layout.

Located at the front of the robot, where it receives maximum airflow, the cooling system was optimized to ensure the most reliable performance in dusty applications, such as when working on dry soil.

With no need to cater for an operator, the D5 literally sits at the very heart of the 2.5 m (w) by 4m (L) by 2.3m (ht), 5.8-tonne KARL. Situated in a low, central position, rather than upfront as with ordinary tractor designs, it provides important benefits in terms of the centre of gravity and weight distribution. Soil compaction is further reduced by the absence of an operator and the use of electrically driven skid-steer-style tracks.

Electric drivelines are not the usual arrangement in agricultural vehicles but allow for much easier autonomous tool control.

"Our D5 is coupled with a variable-speed generator that powers an electric traction driveline," explains Benjamin. "Once we'd ensured the engine could handle the stress of driving the rotor, this diesel-electric installation couples the reliability of a Volvo Penta engine with simple, flexible and super-high-efficiency power distribution. No doubt this system will become increasingly common on medium-sized machines in the future – just one more reason why this project represents the agriculture of tomorrow."

www.agrimachinerynews.com, 26 December 2023



PLENTY OF NEW MACHINERY LINED UP FOR LAMMA 2024

This month will once again see LAMMA being held at the NEC in Birmingham on Wednesday, 17 and Thursday, 18 of this month, where it is expected that the halls will be crowded as farmers come to see the latest machinery on offer.

Many manufacturers will be showing their new machines for only the second time after Agritechnica last November.

These include New Holland with its Gold-Medal-winning CR11 combine harvester, and Case with its latest Quadtrac.

The New Holland CR11 combine harvester will be presented in the standard NH livery, rather than the gold it was painted in at Hanover.

Continued...



It will be joined on the stand by the latest T7.340 HD tractor, which now becomes the 7-series flagship, offering 340hp and being equipped with all New Holland's latest data and electronics packages.



Clothed in gold at Agritechnica, the CR11 will appear in the normal blue and yellow at LAMMA

Case will have its mighty Quadtrac 715 which can peak at 778hp, making it the company's biggest machine yet, and the industry's most powerful tracked tractor.

AGCO at LAMMA 2024

Two stars from the AGCO stable will be the new Massey Ferguson 9S with 425hp, while over on the Valtra side, and sharing the same 8.4L engine, will be the company's latest S series, the S416 which the company terms 'The Boss'.

Meanwhile, Irish manufacturer, SlurryKat, will be launching two wider versions of its Farmline trailing shoe applicator.

Originally released in 2018 at 7.5m, the latest

booms will cover 9m and 10.5m, enabling better use to be made of the larger tankers now on the market.



JCB's largest Loadall, the 542-70 Agri Pro will be at LAMMA 2024

JCB has announced that it will return to LAMMA to showcase its latest Fastrac iCON tractors and range of agricultural materials handling products.

The models present will include the Loadall 542-70 AGRI Pro and the JCB Fastrac 8330 iCON, both being the company's the most powerful models in their respective ranges.

Merlo will be showing the new 30.7 compact handler designed specifically to fit into tight spaces. It has a width of 2m and a standard height of 2.1m, enabling it to work in confined areas or in sheds where access may be restricted by low doorways.

The doors to LAMMA open at 8:30a.m on both days, closing at 5:30p.m on the Wednesday and 4:30p.m on Thursday.

Source: www.agriland.co.uk, 5 January 2024

**JAN-MAR
Promotion
2024**

Valid until: 31st March 2024

Maxipart® - HIGH PERFORMANCE WEAR PARTS

Are you ready for spring cultivations and drilling?

Free MXP Beanie Hat or MXP Water Bottle
With Every **£250 Spend***

MXPBEANIE MXPBOTTLE * (promo products only)

DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR RAMSAK MEMBERSHIP TO ORDER
CLICK THE FRONT COVER TO VIEW

SPALDINGS
Groundcare

2024
**GROUND CARE
REPLACEMENT PARTS,
HORTICULTURAL
TOOLS & EQUIPMENT**

COMPLETE RANGE

www.spaldings.co.uk

DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR RAMSAK MEMBERSHIP TO ORDER
CLICK THE FRONT COVER TO VIEW

FTH TOOL HIRE WHY HIRE A TELEHANDLER?

At the FTH Hire Group, we have different sized telehandlers available for hiring, from 4m to 18m Telehandler forklifts.

There are two types of telehandler available:

Non-Rotating Telehandlers

A non-rotating telehandler, also known as a fixed telehandler, is a versatile heavy-duty lifting machine that offers exceptional stability and lifting capacity. Unlike its rotating counterpart, this specialised piece of equipment is designed for use where precise vertical lifting is more critical than horizontal maneuverability.

Non-rotating telehandlers are commonly used in construction and industrial settings to transport and position heavy loads with utmost precision. Their rigid booms and robust construction make them a reliable choice for tasks such as loading and unloading materials on construction sites or in warehouses, where stability and control are paramount.

Rotating Telehandlers

A rotating telehandler, is a game-changer in the world of material handling and construction machinery. Unlike conventional telehandlers, this innovative equipment offers unparalleled versatility with its ability to swivel its telescopic boom in a full circle.

Whether you're on a busy construction site or a crowded warehouse, a rotating telehandler can

reach and transport heavy loads to previously inaccessible spots with ease. This dynamic feature means reduced repositioning time, increased productivity, and enhanced safety, as it minimises the need for awkward manoeuvres and multiple machines.

Accessories for Telehandlers

All telehandlers can be fitted with a wide range of attachments such as buckets, skips, work platforms and crane jibs. In order to make sure the telehandler is safe and effective it is important to make sure the size of machine is well matched to the type and size of load to be carried and lifted, together with the environment in which it is to be used. Attachments for use with telehandlers should be chosen with care to ensure that the combination of telehandler and attachment is both safe and productive.

How We Can Help

Take a look at our full range of telehandlers and then please get in touch with RAMSAK to find out more.

All of our telehandlers are available from one of our hire hubs in Farnham, Farnborough, Basingstoke, Guildford, Reading, Maidstone, Horsham, Southampton, Chelmsford and Airdrie. We support companies in the areas of Hampshire, Surrey, Berkshire, Sussex, Essex, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Kent, London and Lanarkshire.

Contact RAMSAK to find out more and hire today on enquiries@ramsak.co.uk or 01622 815356

**Special
Winter
Telehandler
Rates!**

www.skelton.co.uk

enquiries@skelton.co.uk



Your leading plant and machinery hire company for over 30 years

**Agri
Agri Eco
Construction**

**JCB
Kramer
Manitou**

**CALL
01622
815356
NOW**

Follow us on Instagram



3 MINI EXCAVATOR PACKAGES





Bobcat. Mini Excavators

Available on Bobcat Mini Excavators. Contact us for more information. T&Cs apply.

3 YEAR - 0% FINANCE

OR CREATE YOUR OWN!

Bobcat E17	Bobcat E19	Bobcat E20
<p>Base Package</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Buckets • Manual Quick Hitch • 3 year / 3000hr Warranty • Free 50hr Service & Maintenance • E17s (Zero Tail Swing) <p>Available from £75.51 PW</p>	<p>Productivity Package</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independence Trailer • Breaker & 2 Buckets • Manual Quick Hitch • Canopy & Cab Options • 3 year or 2000hr Maintenance • 3 year / 3000hr Warranty 	<p>Starter Package</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Buckets • Manual Quick Hitch • 3 year / 3000hr Warranty • Free 50hr Service & Maintenance
£65.53 week*	£89.35 week*	£53.24 week*

VERSATILE EQUIPMENT Mini Excavator Packages in the UK

What is a Mini Excavator? The mini excavator can also be called a mini digger, compact excavator or small excavator. Compact excavators are lightweight enough to dig precisely. The smallest can fit through a doorway, with an operating weight of 1176 kilograms. Buckets range in size, and attachments can be changed to handle any

task. Mini excavators are often referred to as compact excavators by many companies. Despite this, most manufacturers classify portable and compact excavators under the same heading. You can also finance your purchase for three years at zero percent (T&Cs apply). Have a look at the following packages that are available for Mini excavators. The most important thing is that you can also customise your package, contact RAMSAK today on:

enquiries@ramsak.co.uk or **01622 815356**

EUROPLANT

RENTALS

Units 1-3 Leys Ind. Park, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6PX

OPERATED & SELF DRIVE HIRE

- Mini Excavators 0.6-3 Tonnes
- Midi Excavators 5-9T Tonnes
- Excavators 13 - 22 Tonnes
- JCB 3CX Sitemaster
- Dumpers 1-9 Tonnes
- Telescopic Handlers 4m-21m
- Rollers 80ADH, 100ADH, 120ADH
- Ramsak Remote Control Trench Compactors
- Hydraulic Breakers, Augers & Attachments
- Bundled Fuel Bowsers, Static & Wheeled
- Generators
- Transport
- 26 Tonne Beaver Tail
- 32 Tonne Beaver Tail





hire@europlantrentals.co.uk

For a quote or to book call RAMSAK on

01622 815356



01732 789 465

Specialists in

AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT

Supplying:

TELEHANDLERS LOADERS EXCAVATORS

+ a full range of attachments



versatileequipment.co.uk



AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH RAMSAK
CALL 01622 815356 or email
enquiries@ramsak.co.uk to book.



FGS PLANT

info@fgsplant.co.uk

Whatever your requirements,
FGS Plant guarantees to **meet your needs** and **surpass your expectations.**



- EXCAVATORS • DUMPERS • TELEHANDLERS • ROLLERS
- CHERRY PICKERS • SCISSOR LIFTS • SHOVELS • TOWER LIGHTS



- ATTACHMENTS • SWEEPER HIRE • HOSE & PUNCTURE REPAIR

www.fgsplant.co.uk
 FERRY HOUSE, NEW HYTHE LANE,
 AYLESFORD, KENT ME20 7PW

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 1/24



£700

STOCK BRICKS

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

Location: BR8 12/23



£5,000 REDUCED!

RANGE ROVER SPORT

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

Serviced and MOT'd in August and not used since

1/24



£4,500 +VAT

QUAD

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

Location: TN3 1/24

LORRY LOADS OF ROAD PLANINGS COMING OUT OF NORTH KENT

PLEASE [CONTACT RAMSAK](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

Price dependant on delivery location. Please call for a price.

Location: North Kent 1/24



£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



£11,995 +VAT NEW!

BATWING MOWER
Ransomes HR6010
Batwing Mower Year
2015 736 Hrs. 127" cut.

More photos available.

Location: TN19 1/24



£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

Location: ME17

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE - PHOTOS AND LOCATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

- 9T FEED HOPPER. Very good condition Located BN8 (1/24) £2,500
- Indian Sandstone Patio Slabs (Grey) 600x900 **REDUCED** (2/24) £19.99 per m2
- 3 sets aluminium cavalletis (horse jumps) unused (1/24) £295
- 3m cleft chestnut rails (reclaimed) (1/24) £40 for bundle of 10
- Cotswold tank wash auto cleaning system. (1/24) £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. (1/24) OFFERS
- MOUNTED SPRAYER Blanchard 800 litre tractor mounted sprayer. Excellent condition. Located TN19. (1/24) £995 +VAT
- PHOTOCOPIER Canon Image Runner Advance. Very low usage. £250
- Heavy duty extra long 1.5M PALLET FORKS c/w jcb telehandler fittings(1/24) £500 +VAT
- SNOW PLOUGH, to fit Landrover Defender. 8' Bunce . Ex MOD. Un-used. £1,600 +VAT
- Road barriers (1/24) £10 each +VAT
- Reclaimed Kent Peg Tiles, Orange tinge (1/24) £1 each
- Block Paving 300 x 150 Light Grey (new) **REDUCED** (1/24) £37.80 per m2 + VAT
- 1500 Bexhill/Ashburnham Red reclaimed cleaned and palletised bricks **NEW** £1.25 each + VAT
- 1100 litre used WHEELIE BINS excellent condition **NEW** (1/24) £150 each

A RAMSAK member has the following available surplus to requirements in TN27 following a build:
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.
- Misc drainage connections (man holes, adaptors).
- Large amount of helicoil fixings. (1/24)



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

- 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 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.(1/24)
Contact lynsey@ramsak.co.uk for info.

RESIDENTIAL FLAT AVAILABLE IN ASHFORD AREA



1 bedroom residential flat available in working commercial yard in Ashford area. £700 pcm including services & rates, but excluding telephone & internet. (1/24)

Please contact 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 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 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 for more details

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

SITUATIONS WANTED

Conscientious, professional and pro-active individual with extensive experience in Accounts, Office Management, Event Management and Executive PA Role looking to return to the farming sector. CV available.

Please contact lynsey@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 to place your advert.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RAMSAK

- ACCOUNTANTS
- SOLICITORS
- PLANNING
- 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!



Guest Author:
Phil Eckersley,
Former Agent of The
Bank of England

[LINKED IN
PROFILE](#)



KRESTON REEVES: Will 2024 herald much optimism?

In the first of a series of articles, Phil Eckersley, the former Agent of the Bank of England, considers some of the macro-economic factors likely to impact on SMEs in the coming year.

The New Year often brings cause for optimism, although it is hard to find much comfort from recent consensus forecasts. Many pundits are predicting the UK economy will head into recession this year. Despite the gloom among economic soothsayers, there are some factors that provide a more upbeat tone for SMEs struggling to cope with a challenging economic climate.

Likely employment trends

An easing labour market should help firms. Recent data releases from the ONS have been signalling weaker earnings growth, lower vacancy levels and rising unemployment. Labour market participation has also started to increase from its mid-2022 trough, improving the supply of workers looking for employment. It is likely that these trends will continue in 2024. Thus, firms should find it easier to recruit, retain and reward staff. Wage demands should ease as inflation dissipates with workers enjoying modest real wage growth. Skills shortages will persist, however, especially for specialists and in certain sectors.

What about interest rates?

In contrast to recent soundings from the Bank of England's rate setting committee (The MPC), financial markets expect the Base Rate to start falling in 2024. Recent inflation data for November, published mid-December, signalled a larger than expected easing in CPI leading markets to bring forward their expectations of the next rate cut to as early as March 2024.

A rate cut in March 2024?

This seems unlikely. The disparity in views reflects a combination of the Bank's view that core inflation, pay settlements and the services component of CPI are still running ahead of the headline figure. And part of the Bank's mission is to manage inflationary expectations in order to alter firms' and household behaviours. Thus, any hint that policy may be higher for longer should work as a deterrent to "inflation-busting" price setting.

But the good news is...

Despite the divergence of opinions, the recent fall in bond yields has already led to cheaper borrowing costs for firms and consumers, helping incentivise investment for the former and shore-up demand for the latter. For firms, some of these benefits might, however, be offset by an increased credit risk and some political uncertainty as the country enters an election period. Recent business surveys (Deloitte CFO and the latest Federation of Small Businesses Index) have both indicated tightening credit conditions, particularly for SMEs.

Growth prospects for 2024...

The outlook for growth appears mixed, but with the weight of evidence on the downside. Recent rises in interest rates combined with fiscal tightening are likely to restrain growth in 2024. However, the picture is not universally negative. Consumer-facing businesses will face challenges caused by the squeeze on real incomes of their customers, but the Autumn Statement provided modest respite for households in the form of lower National Insurance charges, while growth in real incomes should boost consumption. These changes may be supported by the March 6th Budget with the government coming under pressure to boost its popularity in the polls.

Those operating in the business-to-business sector should find activity a little more robust. The weakness in firms' capital spending has been a feature of the UK economy since the financial crises and particularly since 2016. However, data for 2022 H2 and 2023 saw some recovery in investment. This trend, coupled with the 2023 Autumn Statement making "full expensing" permanent, should encourage further recovery. Indeed, after a prolonged period of weak capital investment, many firms will need to replace older inefficient equipment, machinery and plant in order to remain competitive. The drive for digitisation/e-commerce is frequently cited by firms as drivers of business investment in surveys. Of course, some companies may opt to delay some of this spending in the light of political uncertainties with a General Election due later in the year. Nonetheless, 2024 might be the year when business optimism returns, a theme I will explore in future Pathfinder articles.

www.krestonreeves.com, Published by Rachel Emmerson on 9 January 2024

EVENTS:



KRESTON REEVES: Spring Budget 2024 Question Time Webinar

Adapting to the changes

The Spring Budget announcement will take place on Wednesday 6 March 2024. Following the announcement by the Chancellor, our panel of tax and business experts will be on hand to answer your questions during our Spring Budget question time webinar, highlighting key implications, and providing insights and guidance so you can adapt to the changes.

Date and time:

Friday 8 March 2024

9:30am – 10:30am GMT

Send us your questions

If you would like our panel to cover your questions as part of the discussion, you can ask them during the live webinar, or you can submit them ahead of time via the form below or by emailing events@krestonreeves.com.

The questions submitted won't be attributed to individuals during the webinar.

Register

By registering, you will be taken to our GoToWebinar registration page

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW](#)

Source: www.krestonreeves.com, 12 December 2023



THE BIG CAT SANCTUARY

THE BIG CAT SANCTUARY: 2024 Open Day Tickets Available

Don't miss out of The Big Cat Sanctuary's Open Days, running from 24th to 28th July! Immerse yourself in a morning or afternoon of excitement whilst supporting global conservation efforts. Have the chance to meet all of our majestic big and small cats, creating unforgettable memories. Book your tickets now for an roar-some day!



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

CONTACT THE RAMSAK TEAM:

KAREN WHEELER GROUP MANAGER

Phone: 01622 815356

E-mail: karen@ramsak.co.uk

LUCY DAY

FUEL MIRACLES & SALES MANAGER

Phone: 01622 815356 / Mobile: 07776 302847

E-mail: lucy@ramsak.co.uk

LYNSEY DENNESS

MARKETING MANAGER & CREATIVE GENIUS

Phone: 01622 815356

E-mail: lynsey@ramsak.co.uk

TIERNEY BRADBURY

ACCOUNTS

Phone: 01622 815356

E-mail: tierney@ramsak.co.uk

RAMSAK Ltd
Weald Granary, Seven Mile Lane,
Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent
ME18 5PZ

Telephone: 01622 815356

